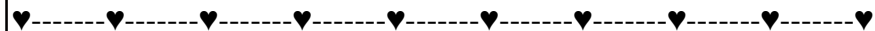


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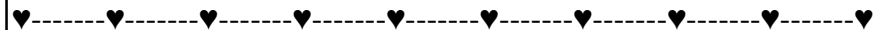
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GOD'S UNCHANGING PLAN OF SALVATION

Hear God's Word (Rom. 10:17)

Believe the truth (Mark 16:15, 16; Heb. 11:6)

Repent of all sins (Luke 13:3, 5)

Confess that Jesus is the Christ (Matt. 10:32)

Be **baptized** for the forgiveness of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38)

Live a **faithful** life until death (Rev. 2:10b; 1 Tim. 4:7, 8)

Conversion accounts with some detail: Acts 2:37-42, 47; 8:5-13, 30-39; 9:6-18 cp. 22:16; 10:6, 44-48; 16:14, 15, 30-34.

♥ We admonish you: **believe** and **obey** the Lord (Heb. 5:8, 9) ♥



Who will be saved? Answer: Matt. 7:21



“Holding forth the word of life”

WOL

(Phil 2:16 cp. John 6:63, 68)

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Church of Christ (Rom. 16:16) Mission USA

c/o Perry Sexton 231 Rainbow Dr. #13140 Livingston, TX 77399

Email: jpsexton@peoplepc.com

Website: www.mission-usa.org

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Where God Put Water (part 2)

by Perry Sexton

As we continue to look at these great accounts in the Old Testament, let us keep in mind that we are not under the old law in this Age but that we are under the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2; James 1:25, etc.). However, these great old lessons are preserved for us for our learning (Rom. 15:4). Let us learn well from them as God intended.

Naaman: Please read the account in 2 Kings 5:1-14. I print here only verses 10 and 11. “And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. {11} But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper” (2 Kings 5:10,11).

Naaman is a prime example of which many people in this Age are guilty: Naaman, like many today, was thinking outside of the Word of God where he should have been listening to and trusting in God's Word! He had his own preconceived ideas of how things should be, etc.! Here are but a few biblical principles we should keep in mind if we desire to please God:

- (1.) **We cannot trust our feelings**: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it" (Jer. 17:9)? "O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. {9} For as the heavens are higher than the earth,

so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts” (Isa. 55:8 9).

(2.) **We must not go beyond that which is written:** That “ye might learn not *to go* beyond the things which are written” (1 Cor. 4:6 ASV cp. KJV with Jer. 17:5). Simply put, we must not add to the Word of God (Rev. 22:18,19). Let us give heed: "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Pet. 4:11).

(3.) **We must have authority for all that we do in religion:** "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24). To worship in truth is to follow God’s Word (cp. John 17:17). God never left it up to man to worship Him in just any manner. God is the one to be worshipped and He tells how to do so in order to be pleasing in His sight. We must respect God’s instructions. When God speaks we must be careful to listen. God has spoken through His Word the Bible (2 Tim. 3:16,17). God, through His prophet Elisha, told Naaman where to wash: “in Jordan” (v.10). The rivers of Damascus were not authorized by God (v.12).

Naaman’s servant convinced him to do as the man of God said and when and only when he obeyed exactly what God said, was he cleansed (v.13,14). In this account we find another case where God chose water to be a part of this process. Naaman should have been satisfied and very thankful for what God told him to do. We also should be very thankful for the process that God has set before us to obey in order to be cleansed of our sins; thankful that God has made a way for us. We should believe and obey God’s plain and simple Words for us, however, many seem to want it their way and go to great lengths to get around God’s Word on salvation. Why would anyone want to do that?

The three thousand on the day of Pentecost who heard the gospel of Christ preached and were instructed to be baptized, did not act like Naaman and many today: “they that gladly received his word were baptized” (Acts 2:41). Should we not be the kind of people who gladly receive God’s Word and obey it? We should be people who believe God’s Word, trust God and obey Him (cp. Heb. 5:8,9). Yet many say baptism for forgiveness is foolishness (cp. 1 Cor. 1:18-27). Was Naaman’s dipping in the water of Jordan foolishness? Would Naaman have been cleansed if he had not dipped in Jordan? Was Naaman cleansed before dipping in water? If you are one who has been taught to think outside the Word of God and reject God’s simple truth, we plead with you to be like those in Acts 2:41. One cannot be cleansed of his sins without baptism in water for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16 cp. Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21, etc.).

The account of Naaman compares very well to our situation today: (1.) Naaman was a leper. Leprosy stands as a type of sin. Compare: All accountable people have sinned (1 John 1:8,10; Rom. 3:23). (2.) Naaman was given a way to be cured by God through the prophet. Compare: Mankind has been given a cure for our sins by God through the very Son of God. (3.) Naaman’s cure was certainly by the grace of God. Compare: Our salvation from sin is certainly by the grace of God (Eph. 2:8). His grace teaches us what to do and what not to do (Titus 2:11,12). (4.) Naaman’s healing involved his own faith. Compare: Our forgiveness of sins involves our own faith (Mark 16:16; Heb. 11:6). (5.) Naaman’s cleansing involved his own obedience. Compare: Our cleansing involves our own obedience (Heb. 5:8,9; Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 1:22,23). Note carefully: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever" (1 Peter 1:22,23). (6.) Naaman’s healing involved water. Why? Because God said so! Compare: Our healing from our soul’s disease involves water. Because God said so! **Do you believe God?** Then please obey Him (Mark 16:16). Please call upon us for assistance. ♥