



The Sword

*“And take... the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17

“The Sword” is published weekly by the OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, as a teaching and information tool for the congregation. Articles are intended to encourage the study of God’s Word every day! — Jack W. McNiel, editor

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“What’s Missing From Your Tract? ” *by David Ray*

several given to me or left at my door, and I’ve found many of them lying around in public places. Recently I’ve even begun collecting them. Why? Don’t they all say the same thing? Shouldn’t they all say the same thing (i.e., what the Bible says)? Knowing God’s plan of salvation found in the Bible, and also knowing the discrepancy between this and what most professing believers teach on this topic, it’s always interesting to me to see what these tracts will say.

If you’ve ever studied the Bible plan of salvation with someone, you’ve inevitably dealt with the differences in what they believe compared to what the Bible teaches (viz., whether or not baptism is for the purpose of having one’s sins forgiven and being saved). Countless times, with people of every denominational and non-denominational background, I’ve run into these differences and asked (even begged) these folks to provide a passage or combination of passages that would

teach the doctrine to which they hold. Sadly, to this day I still don’t know where in the Scriptures to turn in order to support and teach their version of how to be saved.

And so I read another tract on the topic of salvation, and hope it will provide a verse to support what I know it will say. Alas, it is the same as every other one I’ve read, and goes something like this:

1. All are sinners (Romans 3:23).
2. There is a penalty for sin - it results in bondage & death (Romans 6:23a).
3. Christ died to pay for our sins (Romans 5:8).
4. We must accept the free gift of eternal life by accepting Christ as our Lord and Savior (Romans 6:23b; 10:13; John 1:12).
5. In order to do this, you must receive Jesus as your personal savior right now by praying this simple

prayer: "Dear God, I know that I'm a sinner. I know you died on the cross for me. Here and now I give my life to you. Come into my heart and be my Savior. Amen."

6. If you prayed and received Jesus Christ as your Savior....

The above steps are actually taken from two different tracts in my possession, whose content mirrors that of almost every other denominational tract I've ever read on this topic. The final step (#6) will usually either end in a request to fill out some information and mail the tract back to the particular group that left it, or simply to go to the church of your choice...not in order to be saved, but because you are already saved.

Did you notice what was missing in these steps? If not, maybe it would help to first notice what isn't missing - the scriptural support for most of the steps in the process.

Notice the steps again: Are all sinners? Certainly. The tracts provide the verse that says so (Romans 3:23). Is there a penalty for sin? Of course - Romans 6:23! And on down the line. But then we come to "Pray this prayer in order to accept Jesus as your personal savior." And the Scripture that teaches this? Oops, they must have inadvertently messed up and left that verse out. Coincidentally, this is the case with every one of these tracts! No scripture reference is ever given for this "prayer in order to be saved"! Can anyone provide us with this mysterious verse that teaches a non-Christian to pray in order to become a Christian? Surely it's there. Surely

prayer is the point at which one is saved, right?

Actually, this is not what the Bible teaches. But never mind what I say; listen to the tract authors. After all, those who teach this, by their own claims, are "Bible-believing, Bible-following" folks, and surely have a scripture they're thinking of when they write these things. But their silence is deafening.

When I was younger and first starting seeing these tracts left in public places, I would leave them there after marking through the "prayer" part and writing in the passages that teach the rest of the story (i.e., Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Romans 6:3-6; 1 Peter 3:21, etc.). Read these verses and ask why someone would leave out such clear passages on how to be saved. This question will have to be answered by those authors.

It's so shocking that something of such immense spiritual importance can be altered and then passed off as fact without a shred of biblical proof! And this is not something on which we can simply agree to disagree. Souls are on the line. There are so many people out there who believe they're saved when they're not, and the reason they're still lost is because they're allowing themselves to be guided by those false teachers who would pen tracts like these. This article is intended to encourage the "sheep" to open their eyes to what is so blatantly missing from these tracts and from this false doctrine in general - scriptural evidence. Why can't these authors give one single scripture to support their idea of how to be saved? Because it doesn't exist. And their own literature proves it

NEWS AND NOTES:

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Congregation:

- Michelle Hopper has breast cancer. She will be undergoing surgery, radiation and chemotherapy very soon.
- Opal Reed is now in Camden Health Care in Harrisonville.
- Irene Jennings has been feeling better.
- Please remember in your prayers all who have been sick, bereaved or in the hospital recently: Marjorie Alley, Freda Bentley, Lloyd Cooper, Irene Jennings, Jim O'Connor, Wendell Osborne, Alberta Petering, • Opal Reed

Friends & Family:

- Karen Schaberg, sister of Nancy Moore, has been diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Connor Mobley, friend of Bob Alley, had a brain tumor removed last week.
- Wendell Osbourne had heart bypass surgery last week. He is home from the hospital.
- Claude Andrews uncle, Wilbur Gilbreath passed away last week.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

Oak Grove:

- April 11-14—Gospel Meeting with Marvin Rickett
- Ladies' Class 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 AM.
- Personal Evangelism II each Sunday 4:45–5:30 PM.

SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

LEADING IN WORSHIP: *March 7*

Announcements: Claude Andrews

Usher: Walter Reed

Lord's Table: Dixon Liljegren

West: Vint Hall – Dean Evatt

East: Brent Hall – Tom Dyke

Sunday AM

Song Leader: David Wiesemann

Opening Prayer: Bob Alley

Second Prayer: Claude Andrews

Scripture Reader: Roger Stephenson

Sermon: **Mark 1:1-8**

"The Preaching of John the Baptizer"

Closing Prayer: Walter Hutcherson

Sunday PM

Song Leader: Dustin Hall

Opening Prayer: Justin Liljegren

Sermon: **Matthew 5:43-44**

"Love Your Enemies"

Closing Prayer: Hershel Hunt

Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Tyler Jenkins

March 3

Devotional: Bob Alley

Closing Prayer: Jeff Gochenour

March 10

Devotional: Claude Andrews

Closing Prayer: Dean Evatt

OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

Wednesday: *February 24*

Bible Class 73

Sunday: *February 28*

Bible Class 93

AM Worship 107

PM Worship 85

Contribution \$2,301

Budget \$2,020

*The King James Version is requested for
pulpit, classrooms, & scripture reading.*

Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	Jack McNeil	Mar. 28
2	Roger Stephenson	April 4
3	Walter Hutcherson	April 11
4	Vernon Logan	April 18
5	<i>Dustin Hall</i>	<i>Mar. 7</i>
6	Roy Smith Tim Smith	Mar. 14
7	Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren	Mar. 21

WHO WE ARE:

The Oak Grove Church of Christ is independent of any denominational organization. We are not associated with any national or world headquarters. Yet, we cooperate voluntarily with our sister congregations in the Lord's work and fellowship.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to *"be perfectly joined together in the same mind and ... judgment..."* (1 Cor. 1:10). We try to follow the basic, innocent faith that was proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are earnest about learning more by means of studying the Holy Bible and obeying what it says, you will truly find a home here at Oak Grove Church of Christ.

Oak Grove Church of Christ

104 SW 6th Street,
Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-4599
www.ogchurchofchrist.org

Head of the Church:

Christ (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18)

Elders: (1 Tim 3:1-7)

Claude Andrews
Walter Hutcherson
Richard Petering
Lowell Smith

Deacons: (1 Tim 3:8-13)

Darrell Andrews
Dean Evatt
Vint Hall
Hershel Hunt
Leland Reed
Tim Smith
David Wiesemann

Preacher: (2 Tim 4:1-5)

Jack W. McNeil
Office: (816) 690-4599
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– Schedule of Services –

Sunday:

Bible Study – 9:30 a.m.
Worship – A.M. 10:20; P.M. 6:00

Wednesday: Bible Study – 7:00

Bi-Monthly: "House to House /
Heart to Heart"