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Marcie Treese
Charlene Root
Mary Ryan
Cathy Donaldson

TRUSTEES

Noel Ryan
Scott Duncan
Dave Steele
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Articles and information for the next month due the 3rd week of the month.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12-13

What Does It Mean To ‘Accept Christ’?

by A. W. Tozer



Now if you were to ask the average man, the average preacher or the average person – the average Christian anywhere – “How do I come into saving relation to Jesus Christ?” the answer would be one of three. People would either tell you “*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved*” — that’s Acts 16:31 or, they would say “*Receive Christ as your Savior*” — that’s John 1:12, or else they would give you this other answer. (And of course, those first two answers are true; they’re true!) Or else they would give you this third answer, “*Accept Christ as your personal Savior.*”

Now the word ‘accept Christ’ to the astonishment of a good many people does not occur in the Bible – it’s not there. It’s this ‘accept Christ’ doctrine that I want to talk a little bit about tonight. What is it to ‘accept Christ’?

Now, I do not reflect on the words ‘accept Christ’ even though they’re not in the Bible. It’s possible to teach truth and yet not use words that are in the Bible always, because if what you say is the sum of what the Bible teaches on a subject then you’re teaching truth provided the people know that that’s the sum of the Bible teaching. So when you were told to accept Christ to bring us into saving relation to Him what the teacher was attempting to do is to say ‘believe and receive’ and ‘believe’ and ‘receive’ are Bible words though ‘accept’ is not a Bible word.



But accepting Christ has become the panacea all over the evangelical world and it has become fatal to millions! A whole attitude of accepting; the passive acceptance of Christ. This easy acceptance! A man will preach a tremendous sermon and then say “Now, what should you do? Accept Christ. Have you accepted Christ?” Or we go to the bedside of a dying man: “Have you accepted Christ?” And if he says he has, why, we pat his head and the next day or two we preach that he’s in heaven twanging a harp. Well, now I’m awfully afraid that there are millions of people who are perishing because they are being told to accept Christ and they don’t know what’s meant by it.

You see, to tell a man to ‘accept Christ’, while it is relatively right, it yet, if not carefully explained, makes Christ to stand hat in hand waiting on my pleasure; neatly awaiting my verdict on Him. It makes Him apply to me, instead of my applying to Him. It permits me to accept Christ by an impulse of my mind or my emotions and accept Him painlessly and at no cost and no inconvenience.

Somebody suggested that the cross of Christ should not inconvenience people. Well, it is the most inconvenient thing in the world, this cross of Christ! It took a man by the name of Jesus in the height of his healthy human life and took Him out on a hillside and killed Him there – now, that’s an inconvenient thing for Him! And any cross is inconvenient; it’s a most inconvenient thing, this accepting Christ, if we know what we mean by it. But the accepting Christ of popular theology has no inconvenience attached to it.

The Word of God says BELIEVE AND RECEIVE the Lord Jesus Christ. That involves a personal invitation on your part to invite Jesus Christ to come into your heart and life and be your Savior and Lord. It is not simply a mental ascent to the facts about Jesus. When you invite him in he is faithful and just to forgive you your sins and transform you into his child. That’s why the Scripture says, “You must be born again.” Jesus comes into your life and gives you a new beginning, a new life.



'What a Friend We Have in Jesus'

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6–7

Joseph Scriven watched in shock as the body of his fiancé was pulled from the lake. Their wedding had been planned for the next day. Reeling from the tragedy, he made up his mind to immigrate to America. Packing up his belongings in Dublin, Ireland, he sailed for Canada, leaving his mother behind. He was about 25 years old.

Ten years later, in 1855, he received word that his mother was facing a crisis. Joseph wrote this poem and sent it to her. Mrs. Scriven evidently gave a copy to a friend who had it published anonymously, and it quickly became a popular hymn, though no one knew who had written it.

Meanwhile, Joseph fell in love again. But tragedy struck a second time when his bride, Eliza Catherine Roche, contracted tuberculosis and died in 1860 before their wedding could take place. To escape his sorrow, Joseph poured himself into ministry, doing charity work for the Plymouth Brethren and preaching among the Baptists. He lived a simple, obscure life in Port Hope, Canada, cutting firewood for widows, giving away his clothes and money to those in need. He was described as “a man of short stature, with iron-gray hair, close-cropped beard, and light blue eyes that sparkled when he talked.” Ira Sankey later wrote:

Until a short time before his death it was not known that he had a poetic gift. A neighbor, sitting up with him in his illness, happened upon a manuscript copy of 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.' Reading it with great delight and questioning Mr. Scriven about it, he said that he had composed it for his mother, to comfort her in a time of special sorrow, not intending that anyone else should see it. Some time later, when another Port Hope neighbor asked him if it was true he composed the hymn, his reply was, “The Lord and I did it between us.”

On October 10, 1896, Joseph became critically ill. In his delirium, he rose from his bed and staggered outdoors where he fell into a small creek and drowned at age 66. His grave was arranged so that his feet were opposite those of his lost love, Eliza Catherine Roche, that at the resurrection they might arise facing one another.

The January-February-March edition of Our Daily Bread is available on the table in the Narthex, This daily devotional booklet can help you spend time with God and His Word every day. They are free. Please pick one up



EVENTS IN MARCH 2023:

- **March 5** - Soup & Pie Luncheon following Morning Worship Service
- **March 6** - Deacons Meeting - 10:00 am
- **March 12, 19, 26** - Coffee and Conversation will begin from 10:00-10:50 am.
- **March 13** - Session Meeting - 1:00 pm

Coming up in April:

- **April 2, 16, 23, 30** - Coffee and Conversation from 10:00 - 10:50 am
- **April 2** - Communion Sunday
- **April 6** - Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner and Communion
- **April 9** - Easter Sunrise Service, Breakfast and Morning Worship



Coffee & Conversation

will begin on Sunday, March 12
from 10:00 to 10:50 am.

Come join in the
fellowship.

A sign-up sheet
is posted
on the
bulletin board.



Soup & Pie Luncheon will be March 5 after morning worship service. Drink & paper products will be provided. Please bring your favorite pie to share. There is a sign up sheet on the stand in the Narthex.



In the midst of this season of Lent, I found a segment of my devotional today from John MacArthur quite challenging. I believe it's worth sharing.

"There's the story of a pilot who came on the loudspeaker midflight and said, 'I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is, we've lost all our instrumentation and don't know where we are. The good news is, we have a strong tailwind and are making great time.' That's an accurate picture of how many people live: they have no direction in life, but they're getting there fast."

"We as Christians are to be different because we have divine guidance and eternal goals. Our lives are to be marked by a confident trust in God and a pursuit of spiritual excellence"

This is where our Lenten journey should be taking is.

- Shared by Rev. Mauri Smith

"Each day, with the gift of a whole, entire, precious, and priceless day before you, ask: "Lord, how do You want me to live this day?"

What is it You want me to do with this one day You have given me?"

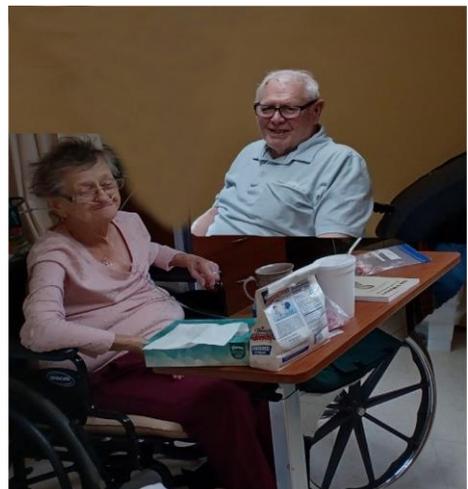
What is the work You want me to accomplish today?"

-Elizabeth George, Christian Author

Remember our shut-ins Lee and Charlotte McCoy.

They are both in Grove Manor and share the same room.

The photo is from Pastor Dick's recent visit.





Names in the Bible Word Scramble



1. iashia _____
2. jsdua _____
3. nawder _____
4. bamraha _____
5. raachzaih _____
6. cjbao _____
7. imcah _____
8. entpesh _____
9. udsedath _____
10. usjes _____
11. isttu _____
12. eossm _____
13. agrha _____
14. lbaoromehwt _____
15. jelial _____
16. ikeelze _____
17. einald _____
18. eihnaehm _____
19. htmaetw _____
20. rtpee _____

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God never made a promise that was too good to be true.

-Dwight L. Moody, Evangelist/Publisher



Missions Moment:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem (locally), and in all Judea and Samaria (surrounding area), and to the ends of the earth. (worldwide)”
Acts 1:8

The Ebenezer Missions Committee thanks you for giving to projects near and far to share the good news of God’s love through our Savior, Jesus Christ. In January 2023 we donated \$250 to Samaritan’s Purse, an international effort providing gifts, gospel activities and colorful Christ centered literature to needy children in scores of nations worldwide. In February our \$250 donation was local, to the Meals on Wheels program, providing daily meals for the elderly in our community.

This month our gift will bless Seneca Hills Bible Camp and Retreat Center, an interdenominational program available to a broader area but still close by. Their programs include summer day camp for children, separate weeks of residential camps for children and youth, 10 days of family camp with Christ-focused ministries and fun for every age group, plus opportunities for both camp organized theme focused weekend retreats throughout the year for children, youth, men and women. Individual churches may also schedule facilities to use for their own retreats for a fee. You may be a man who enjoys throwing axes or target shooting with your gun, or a youth who loves to climb walls or walk on a rope course. You may be a woman who enjoys crafting or quilting, or a child who loves to swim and kayak. There are special retreats and camps just for YOU!

Jesus Christ and His provision of love, forgiveness and cleansing is the frequently repeated message in every program of Seneca Hills Camp.

Thank you for giving!

-Marilyn LaFountain,
Missions Committee

Answers to Names in the Bible Word Scramble:

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Isaiah | 8. Stephen | 15. Elijah |
| 2. Judas | 9. Thaddeus | 16. Ezekiel |
| 3. Andrew | 10. Jesus | 17. Daniel |
| 4. Abraham | 11. Titus | 18. Nehemiah |
| 5. Zachariah | 12. Moses | 19. Matthew |
| 6. Jacob | 13. Hagar | 20. Peter |
| 7. Micah | 14. Bartholomew | |

Clerk's Corner: February 13, 2023 Session Meeting:

- Presbytery Meeting February 22 at Westminster College
- Treasury Report: Receipts, \$6,287.00; Expenses, \$5,603.67; Balance, \$9,843.00
- Pastor Dick will purchase two large Easter banners for the front of the church.
- Upcoming Events:
 - March 5 – Soup and Pie Luncheon following worship
 - April 6 – Maundy Thursday Potluck Dinner and Communion
 - April 9 – Easter Sunrise Service, Breakfast and Morning Worship
- Looking ahead:
 - June 3 – Family Picnic
 - September 23 – Wiener Roast
 - November 19 – Thanksgiving Dinner following worship
- Coffee and Conversation begins March 12. Please sign up to furnish refreshments. No food or drink is to be taken into the Sanctuary.
- A list of Missions was presented that will be supported this year. Details of the Missions of the Month will be presented in the newsletters.

-Connie Jewell, Clerk

Treasurer's Report - January 2023:

Beginning Balance 1/1/2023	\$ 12,529.74
Receipts \$ 6,287.00	
Beginning Balance Plus Receipts	\$ 18,816.74
Less Expenses	\$ 5,603.67
Balance 1/31/2023	\$ 13,213.07

Includes:

Trustee Endowment Fund	\$ \$2,059.89
Sunday School	\$ 45.04
Missions Endowment	\$ 965.14

Designated Missions:

Local	\$110.00
Saunders	\$ 95.00
Gardner	\$ 95.00

Available Undesignated Funds for General Use 1/31/2023 - \$ 9,843.00

-Joan Coulter, Treasurer

March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Sally Ely	2	3	4 Karen Ohler
5 Soup & Pie Luncheon <i>following worship service</i>	6 Deacons Mtg. 10:00 am	7	8	9	10	11 Marcus Elverson
12 Coffee & Conversation 10:00 	13 Session Mtg. 1:00 pm	14	15	16 Paul Bengs	17 	18
19 Coffee & Conversation 10:00 	20 	21	22	23 George Parker	24	25 Mandi Duncan
26 Coffee & Conversation 10:00 	27	28	29	30	31	

Birthdays: 1 – Sally Ely 16 – Paul Bengs
 4 – Karen Ohler 23 – George Parker
 11 – Marcus Elverson 25 – Mandi Duncan

A new Christian radio station is in our area.
Family Life Radio is broadcast on 88.7 FM.
Program Guides are on the shelf under the bulletin board.



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