

WHEN WAS THE ETHIOPIAN SAVED?

David Halbrook

In Acts 8:26-39, a man from Ethiopia was saved. An evangelist named Philip saw him reading the Bible and asked if he understood what he was reading. The Ethiopian said he did not (verses 28-34).

Philip *preached Jesus to him*--teaching him of salvation in Jesus. Philip taught what Jesus taught—*He that believes and is baptized will be saved* (Mark 16:16) because the Ethiopian asked, “What hinders me from being baptized?”. The Ethiopian immediately confessed his faith in Jesus as God’s Son and was baptized that day. They both went into the water which reflects that baptism is immersion in water, not pouring or sprinkling. Receiving salvation in Christ caused the Ethiopian to rejoice (verses 35-39).

Has Jesus saved you? If you believe He has—does reading about the conversion of the Ethiopian remind you of that day? When you learned about Jesus, did you learn to confess Him with your mouth and immediately be baptized in water for the remission of sins? If not, contact us and we will send you a free CD from our gospel meeting, a lesson titled “Understanding Baptism.” Contact us with comments or questions.

-- *Editor’s Note:* Find and use our article in the *Arkansas Weekly* this week. Remember CDs are available from the week. And on the subject of this article, remember Bruce’s lesson “Understanding Baptism.”

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

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The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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DID OUR GOSPEL MEETING DO ANY GOOD?

David Halbrook

Over the past weeks, both individually and together, we have invested a significant amount of time and money in our recent gospel meeting. Was it worth it to you? Did our gospel meeting do any good—

1. *For God?* Since the Father is seeking worship, I believe it is safe to say that He received what He desires this past week (John 4:23). God also desires all men to come to a knowledge of the truth. Our gospel meeting increased the number of people who now have knowledge which they did not have before (1 Tim. 2:4).

No, God is not a “better” God because of our gospel meeting, but if our efforts pleased Him, then we have done well (and cannot stop!).

2. *For saints who were present?* “... grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:16-18). If you were able to come throughout the week, you are now better prepared to teach about baptism, endure the private burdens you carry, and watch for the last day. Your presence as a part of the body and your voice during song was noticed and heard by God and the church. Yes, good was accomplished for all who chose to come as a result of considering God, one another, and self (Jn. 4:23; Heb. 10:24; Phil. 2:4).

3. *For those among us who chose not to come?* The local church is a definable group of people, who, based on their common commitment to God, have committed to working together. Your absence was noticed.

What did your absence express to God about your commitment to Him? David said “I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD” ” (Psalms 122:1). David was speaking of the public assembly to worship God. Today, WE ARE the house of Lord, but we still publicly assemble to worship Him. Were you glad to be absent from this occasion? What good thing was accomplished by your absence?

Peter speaks of the flock “among you” (1 Pet. 5:2). Are you a sheep who has committed to be “among us”? If so, why were you not among us this past week, consistent with your commitment? Your absence will only “do you good,” if you honestly analyze why you chose not to come.

4. *For those among us who could not come?* If you wanted to come but could not—you felt that inner hunger and thirst for God’s word. You know that you cannot live by bread alone but by the word of God (Matt. 4:4). Even though you could not meet this need with us, the fact that you felt that strong desire is a signal of your present and potential growth in the Savior (2 Pet. 3:18). When that desire is felt and reinforced, even in that, good is accomplished.

5. *For the lost who came?* In 1 Corinthians 14:23-24, Paul mentioned that unbelievers or an uninformed person might be in the assembly—this happened this week! Now that they have heard, they can believe and call on the name of the Lord (Rom. 10:13-14; Acts 22:16). The simple fact that the seed was sown in their heart establishes the fact that good was done (Lk. 8:11).

6. *For the lost who chose not to come?* Are you discouraged because someone you invited did not come? Do not grow weary in doing good! Consider that your invitation to them alone did some good. It forced this person to think on spiritual things as they listened to your invitation or read the flyer. It made them think about whether or not they would come and why. They had to think about spiritual things, even if only for a few minutes. In a world where men’s minds are full of earthly things, good is done when we can find ways to cause them to think on things that are above (Col. 3:2).

7. *For those who did not know about it?* You remember the song “You Never Mentioned Him To Me.” This past week provided each of us many opportunities to mention Him to others. Those who we chose not to tell, were to afraid to ask, or forgot to tell because we are so caught up in the cares, pleasure, and riches of this world, did not benefit from Tuesday’s lesson “Understanding Baptism” or Thursday’s lesson “Why Does God Allow Suffering.” Would they have benefitted from them? I suppose only the Lord knows. If we neglected someone, I hope we feel sincere regret that will motivate us not to make the same mistake in the future. Pray about it and consider offering them a CD of one of the lessons of the week.

God always keeps His promises. He has promised that His word “shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for

which I sent it” (Isa. 55:11). Yes, good was done this week. Let us thank the Lord for His goodness that provided all of the good that was done this week and continue in the work as long as we have life.

***A SELECTION FROM THE COMMENTARY “BARNES’ NOTES”
ON EPH. 5:33***

(6.) There is no danger that a husband will love a wife too much, provided his love be subordinate to the love of God. The command is, to love her as Christ loved the church. What love has ever been like that? How can a husband exceed it? What did not Christ endure to redeem the church? So should a husband be willing to deny himself to promote the happiness of his wife; to watch by her in sickness, and, if need be, to peril health and life to promote her welfare. Doing this, he will not go beyond what Christ did for the church. [Eph. 5:25] He should remember that she has a special claim of justice on him. For him she has left her father's home, forsaken the friends of her youth, endowed him with whatever property she may have, sunk her name in his, confided her honour, her character, and her happiness, to his virtue; and the least that he can do for her is to love her, and strive to make her happy [Gen. 2:23;]. This was what she asked when she consented to become his; and a husband's love is what she still asks to sustain and cheer her in the trials of life [Song of Sol. 4]. If she has not this, whither shall she go for comfort?

(7.) We may see, then, the guilt of those husbands who withhold their affections from their wives, and forsake those to whom they had solemnly pledged themselves at the altar; those who neglect to provide for their wants, or to minister to them in sickness [1 Tim. 5:8]; and those who become the victims of intemperance, and leave their wives to tears. There is much, much guilt of this kind on earth. There are many, many broken vows. There are many, many hearts made to bleed. There is many a pure and virtuous woman, who was once the object of tender affection, now, by no fault of hers, forsaken, abused, broken-hearted, by the brutal conduct of a husband.

Editor’s Note I rarely will print an article that is not obviously full of Scripture. The above thoughts are the product of one man’s meditation on Eph. 5:33. Everything in [brackets] have been added by me, to help you to recognize the basis of this man’s thoughts on marriage. Though the wording may be challenging at times, because it was written in the 1800s, your time working through that challenge is better used than watching TV. To get even more benefit, read and discuss this with your wife and later as a family.