

News & Announcements

PRAYER REQUESTS

Daryion Banks Continue to keep Daryion in your prayers as to his recovery, as well as his spiritual needs.

Liz Barajas' dad has suffered a set back and is in the hospital. Liz will be traveling to Denver on Tuesday. Continue to keep Liz and her family in your prayers.

Dorothy Barton's husband, Firman is not doing well. Keep him in your prayers that he will soon get better. Also keep Dorothy in your prayers as Firman's caregiver.

Ignacio Reyes needs our prayers for treatment he will be undergoing in Utah for PTSD for a few weeks. Also, keep Melissa and the children in your prayers while Ignacio goes through these treatments.

Keep the following on your prayer list who are either shut-in, unable to worship with us, or have on going health concerns,

Janette Banks, Dorothy and Firman Barton, Mary and Bob Cress, Beverly Dempsey, Rachel Kidwell, Bobbye Pounders, John Simo, and Fernando Vizcarra, Jr. in your prayers.

TRAVELING MEMBERS

Liz Barajas is traveling to Denver to see her dad. Keep her in your prayers for a safe travel and return.

Brenda Mendoza is in Australia until sometime in March. Keep Brenda in your prayers for a safe travel and return.

MILITARY MEMBERS

Michael Barnes and David Sims are stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

WORD OF FAITH

Weekly bulletin of the Vegas Drive Church of Christ

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Sunday Bible Class: 9 AM • Sunday Worship: 10 AM & 6 PM • Wednesday Bible Class: 7 PM

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SEEKING THE LOST

In one of the clearest passages of the Bible that explains Jesus' mission on this earth, Jesus said, *"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost"* ([Luke 19:10](#)). Before His ascension into heaven, Jesus charged His apostles, saying, *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned"* ([Mark 16:15-16](#)). The first place in which they would preach the Gospel of Christ was Jerusalem ([Luke 24:46-47](#)). After the "good news of salvation" was preached in this great city, the apostles and disciples preached in Judea, Samaria and the rest of the world ([Acts 1:8](#); [8:12](#); [Col. 1:23](#)).

The charge that Jesus issued nearly 2,000 years ago did not end with the apostles or the Christians of the first century. Jesus' challenge has been issued to every Christian in every generation. In Matthew's account of the unlimited commission, Jesus told His apostles, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: *Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:* and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" ([Matt. 28:19-20](#)). The apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, *"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"* ([2 Tim. 2:2](#)). Therefore, it is the duty of every Christian to "seek and save the lost."

By making an acrostic out of the word, L-O-S-T, we can learn some valuable points that will encourage and admonish us to accept and fulfill this great command of the Lord.

LOVE

The first letter of the word, "LOST," is "L" which is also the first letter of the word, "LOVE." If God's people are going to "seek and save the lost," then they must have love and

concern for the souls of others. The apostle John revealed our true motive for loving God. He wrote, *"We love him, because he first loved us"* (1 John 4:19). The heavenly Father demonstrated His love by designing a plan of redemption that included the sending of His only begotten Son into the world (John 3:16). Jesus demonstrated His great love by being a willing sacrifice upon the cruel cross of Calvary (Heb. 12:2). It is much easier to love someone that reciprocates that love (Matt. 5:46-48). However, Jesus died on the cross for sinners, even His enemies (Rom. 5:8-9)! When we reach the understanding that every man possesses a soul and that soul is valuable, yea priceless (Matt. 16:26), then we will be motivated by LOVE for the souls of men and women to "seek and save the lost."

OPTIMISM

The second letter of the word "LOST," is the letter "O" which is the first letter of the word, "OPTIMISM." Perhaps one reason God's people fail to "seek and save the lost" is that they lack this ingredient. Skepticism and pessimism are much more common characteristics in this world. Everyone and everything are under some kind of suspicion. Based upon the actions of this world, certainly wisdom dictates that precaution be exercised. Yet, however wicked this world may be, there is always HOPE that someone will obey the Gospel. It appears that Ananias was very skeptical of preaching the Gospel to Saul of Tarsus, yet Saul obeyed when he heard the Gospel! Dear reader, have you figured out a formula by which you can automatically know who will obey the Gospel and who will not? We are sometimes surprised and also ashamed when people that are the vilest (in our judgment) obey the Gospel. The only secure way of pricking the conscience of the honest and sincere is to "preach the gospel to every creature."

We must remember that as proclaimers of the Gospel, it is our charge to "TEACH and PREACH." Conversion is left to the sinner and the power of the Gospel. The Lord did not challenge His people to "convert the world." He charged them to "preach the gospel." God will give the increase (1 Cor. 3:6; Isa. 55:11).

SIN

The third letter of the word, "LOST" is "S" which is also the first letter of the word, "SIN." Could it be that many brethren hesitate in teaching the Gospel to others because they are not thoroughly convinced of the destructive power of sin? Evidence is overwhelming that this may be the case. When brethren turn to a "social gospel" which is a gospel of another kind (Gal. 1:6-9) and believe that "relationships save rather than the gospel," then they are denying the power of the Gospel to overcome sin (2 Tim. 3:5). The popular doctrine of

"Universalism" teaches that God will save everyone regardless of his conduct and behavior. People who believe this devilish doctrine deny the destructive power of sin (Rom. 3:10,23; 6:23; James 1:13-15; Rev. 21:8). When we realize the harm that sin does to the soul, then we will also recognize the urgency of "seeking and saving the lost."

TEACH

The fourth letter of the word, "LOST," is the letter "T" which is also the first letter of the word, "TEACH." Men cannot be saved from their sins unless they are taught the Gospel (John 6:44-45). Jesus' life was filled with action and teaching (Acts 1:1). God's redemptive plan is no longer a mystery. It has been revealed through the inspired word of God (1 Cor. 2:9-13). But men must be taught (Rom. 10:13-17). Brethren usually are hesitant about teaching others; however, every Christian has the ability to tell others what to do to be saved. It is simply a matter of rehearsing what he/she did to save their own soul in light of the Scriptures. May each of us do his or her part in reaching the lost with the soul-saving message of the Gospel.

Ronnie Whittemore

God's Plan of Salvation

HEAR the gospel Rom. 10:17
BELIEVE the gospel John 3:16
REPENT of your sins Luke 13:3
CONFESS Christ Matt. 10:32
Be BAPTIZED Acts 2:38
Live FAITHFULLY Rev. 2:10

If you are visiting today, we appreciate your presence and hope to get to know you better. Please fill out a visitor's card so we can have a record of your attendance, and if there is any way we can serve your spiritual needs, please bring this to our attention.

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