
BIBLE INSIGHT

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

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Extraordinary Kindness

By Phillip Shumake

Chapter twenty-seven of Acts records the dramatic shipwreck of the boat carrying Paul to Rome. For fourteen days the two hundred and seventy-six passengers were tossed about in a terrible storm and survived on very little food. In chapter twenty-eight the ship's crew, Paul, and other prisoners swim to the shores of the island Malta, just south of modern day Italy, after their boat breaks up under the pounding waves. In verse two, we read of the warm welcome these exhausted travelers received.

Acts 28:2 The natives showed us extraordinary kindness; for because of the rain that had set in and because of the cold, they kindled a fire and received us all.

Notice the kindness shown to the shipwrecked souls was considered to be extra-ordinary. What made the inspired writer credit the coastal inhabitants with this level of kindness? Again, verse two reveals important details. It was cold and raining!

The local residents go above and beyond to care for those in need by putting aside their own comfort. They set about to tend to the needs of strangers building a fire to warm and welcome not two, not ten, but two hundred and seventy six people!

APPLICATION



We should learn from the out-of-the-ordinary kindness shown by these simple people. We often have the opportunity to show kindness to one another, but we must balance our care and concern for brothers and sisters in Christ with also meeting the needs of strangers. While we may not have a shipwreck at our backdoor, there are many times that we can show extraordinary kindness to others if we are willing to

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church of Christ at Beverly Shores

Sun. 9:30 a.m.—Bible Classes
Sun. 10:30 a.m.—Worship
Sun. 6:00 p.m.—Worship
Wed. 7:00 p.m.—Bible Classes

1318 Griffin Road
Leesburg, FL 34748
352-365-9946

Welcome Visitors!

We are glad to have you visiting with us today, because you are part of our goals. This may sound odd, but please let us explain. Our goal is to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and to glorify Him in all that we do. (1 Cor. 10:31)

God will always be our number one priority, but the Bible speaks of secondary goals that this church also recognizes. Today, we consider you our honored guest, and hope to prove ourselves welcoming and hospitable. In fact, we hope that you can tell we are loving.

1 Timothy 1:5 says: “But the goal of our instruction is love from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith.”

Because this is our goal as well, we hope that you can see love in our teaching. We hope you can see people with pure hearts, a good conscience, and faith that is totally genuine. Only then will we really be doing our job.

So please, stay a while after services so we can greet you. Feel free to take a welcome packet with you as you leave, and if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. Helping you is part of our goals.

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set aside our personal comforts or social boundaries.

We need to remember 1 Tim. 6:18-19: *Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.*

This week, think of the small things you can do for strangers that will resonate in their hearts as an extraordinary kindness, just as the warm fire did for Paul.

Think on these things...

“Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.” (Colossians 3:15-17)

Do You Know?

According to Proverbs 11:2: “When pride comes, then comes _____.”

Bonus: What comes to those who are humble?

Is Baptism Really Important?

By Phillip Shumake

Many wonder what is special about being baptized? If we are all saved by grace, they ask, then what is the big deal? This is a great question, with an answer that can be found in the Bible.

(1 Peter 3:21-22) Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you--not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience--through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

In this verse the Bible clearly connects baptism with salvation. However, God is careful to emphasize that there is more to this than just getting the dirt knocked off of you by being dunked in water. Baptism that “saves” includes “an appeal to God.” True baptism is a *physical immersion* in water as part of a *spiritual plea* to God. In this kind of baptism our heart, our mind, our soul, and our body all respond to God. Now that is powerful. That is a big deal!

“...our heart, our mind, our soul, and our body all respond to God.”

When studying baptism, understand that the Bible is talking about more than getting wet. In baptism we accept that no amount of cleaning we can ever do would remove our sins. In baptism we allow *God to wash* our sins away.

Because God does the cleansing, we can admit that we did not earn our salvation; we only accept His solution: His grace. **(Ephesians 2:8-9) For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.**

In baptism, believers’ faith motivates them to trust in God’s grace to forgive us and save us. **(Acts 22:16) 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'** Maybe you are a believer, who needs to be baptized so that you can be saved. If so, please let us know, and we would be happy to help you submit to God’s cleansing in a baptism that is just like the one we read of in the Bible: a physical immersion in water as part of a spiritual plea to God.