

MEADOWBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH

Worship This Sunday

July 11, 2021 ~ 9:00 AM

In our Sanctuary (masks are optional)

or

Outside Parking Area

Services on YouTube

Meadowbrookbaptist.cc

July 4, 2021

Worship Attendance 40 World Hunger \$15.44

Budget Offering \$2,382.00

Weekly Needs to Date \$71,550.00

Weekly Offerings to Date \$75,706.35

ON-GOING LOCAL MISSIONS PROJECT



Food Drive

Every Sunday Morning our church collects food to be distributed to the needy. Please help if you can.

CONVERSION, BELIEF AND FAITH

“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” And Paul and Silas said, “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved.”

(See Acts 16:11-34 / Luke 3:1-22)

There are two kinds of people who find salvation--a change in our character; God's forgiveness and the right to go to heaven. Some are like this Gentile jailor, who hear the gospel for *the first time*. Some are like the Bible teacher Nicodemus (John 3) and the Jewish church members at John's baptism (Luke 3) who were trusting in circumcision to get them to heaven; like people today trust in baptism and church membership.

To find salvation, sometimes the Bible tells us to “*believe*” (John 3:16); sometimes to have “*faith*” (Ephesians 2:8-10); sometimes to “*repent*” (Luke 3); sometimes to “*repent and believe*” (Mark 1:15) and sometimes to “*convert-turn*”- *turn* from sin to God (Acts 3:19). These are all part of the process we call

“conversion” – becoming a true Christian. They go together like fire, heat and smoke.

It all begins with belief. It starts in the mind. If you are upstairs asleep and I call and tell you your kitchen is on fire; if you believe me, I will see you running out the front door with a kid under each arm. You “act” because you believe. Even the term “repentance” means a “change of mind”. When God changed His mind about destroying Israel in Exodus 32, the Greek Old Testament in Jesus' day, says He “repented”.

This all begins with God reaching out to us. We don't want to come to Him, until He comes to us and gives us the desire, the “want to” to come. Jesus said, “**No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me, draws him**” (John 6:44). Adrian Rogers says “A sinner no more **wants** to come to God any more than a mouse **wants** to come to a cat”.

The Holy Spirit “*guides us into the truth*” about “*sin, righteousness and judgment*” (John 16:8-13). We believe we have done wrong; that God takes it seriously and that we survive death and will be judged and punished in some way by Him. We believe rituals like circumcision, baptism and communion do not bring forgiveness (Luke 3:8 / John 3:5).

We believe the bad news, but thank God, we also believe the good news. God loves us all (John 3:16); sent Jesus to die for us all (1 John 2:1-4) and wants everyone to repent so He will not have to punish us (2 Peter 3:9). We believe that through the sacrifice of His Son on the cross, we can find His forgiveness. Jesus said, “*this is* (represents) *my blood - shed for the forgiveness of sins*” (Matthew 24:27).

Believing these truths does not bring salvation. The “**demons believe and tremble with fear**” (James 2:20). We are saved “**through faith**” (Ephesians 2) and belief becomes “*faith*” when we act on it; when we pray like this Gentile jailor did and ask to be saved.