

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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## Our Elders:

*Mike Chancellor*  
(322 – 6374)

*Tom Witherspoon*  
(923-6479)

## Deacons:

*Joe Cronin*

*Jim Hall*

*David Witherspoon*

## Preacher:

*John C. Robertson*

## The Bible

Thomas Paine once wrote, “The Bible is a book that has been read more and examined less than any book that ever existed.” One need not travel far in our society to find that either many people do not understand how to read or they just do not care to know Bible truths. Mankind has exhibited the greatest degree of sloth when it comes to trying to understand the Bible. A book that reveals the keys to an eternal existence of comfort or great anguish is treated as something of little value by many. Though God commands man to study His law (II Tim. 2:15) most are ignorant of its truths (I Cor. 3:1ff; Heb. 5:6-6:1ff). C. S. Lewis, speaking of the Bible, said, “It is not merely a sacred book but a book so remorse and continuously sacred that it does not invite... it excludes or repels the merely aesthetic approach. You can read it as literature only by a tour de force... It demands incessantly to be taken on its own terms: it will not continue to give literary delight very long, except to those who go to it for something quite different.” Let’s take a moment, in this short article, to examine three important things that the Bible identifies for man to be spiritually successful.

### The Bible Reveals the Identity of True Religion

James wrote, “*Pure religion and undefiled before our God and Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world*” (James 1:27). Religious service to God entails personal responsibility and obedience to God’s laws. The varied interpretations of God’s laws are manifest in the fact that there are currently more than 10,000 separate religions in the world. One of those “religions” is Christianity. Christianity has within itself 30,000 different denominations. The Bible tells us that God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:32). Man has obviously fabricated the existing religious confusion though God condemns it (see I Cor. 1:10). True religion is identified in the Bible as being one. There is only one interpretation of the Bible (II Pet. 1:20-21). There is only one God, faith, church, and baptism recorded in the Bible (Eph. 4:1ff). Furthermore, all true believers are to be ONE in mind and religious direction (I Cor. 1:10; Rom. 15:4; Phil. 1:27).

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

### Please keep the following members in your prayers:

**Nell Hulsey** was diagnosed with breast cancer last week. After a visit to her doctor on Wednesday it has been determined that she will be able to have a mastectomy to remove the cancer. Nell is scheduled to have her surgery on Tuesday May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30AM at Kell West Hospital.

**Nina Gray's** recent doctor visit was somewhat disappointing. She will probably make a final decision as to whether or not she has eye surgery after a March 12<sup>th</sup> visit to a neuro-ophthalmologist.

**Tom Witherspoon** has completed his series of cancer treatments in Houston and has returned home. We welcome Tom back home and pray that the results are positive.

**Blake Robertson** will be leaving this Tuesday morning for his new Marine assignment in Kaneohe Bay Hawaii. Please keep him in your prayers too.

### Women's Bible Study:

The second Bible class was this past Friday and the next one will be Friday March 13<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 PM. The class meets at the church building with Kasey Robertson doing the teaching.

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

## The Bible Identifies the Saved and Lost (Matt. 18:11):

Another source of religious confusion comes in the area of answering the question: "What does one need to do to be saved?" The 30,000 denominations will send people in thousands of different directions to answer this question. The Bible; however, gives one plan for man's salvation. The Bible tells us to hear (Rom. 10:17), believe (Heb. 11:6), repent (Acts 17:30), confess the name of Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16), and to remain faithful all the days of our lives (Rev. 2:10). The Bible tells us that only a few will follow through with these simple instructions (Matt. 7:13ff). We have all been blessed with one life to live. We have one chance at getting our eternal abode right. Those not saved in the end of time will be cast into hell and never see the eternal kingdom of God (see Rom. 2:3ff; I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:21; Rev. 20:10-15 etc.).

## The Bible Identifies the MEANS whereby man is Saved (Matt. 1:21):

The saved are those who have received the gracious "free gift of God" (Rom. 5:12-18). The apostle Paul identified the gift of God as "justification." Those JUSTIFIED are those who have received the forgiveness of their sins [see Eph. 2:8 comp. to Eph. 1:7]. Precise and exact instructions are delivered in the book of Acts regarding how people received the forgiveness of their sins. Multiple examples are listed in the book of Acts that illustrate that those who originally obeyed the gospel, through the act of baptism, received the forgiveness of their sins (see Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36; 10:47; 22:16 etc.). Again, Paul writes, "*For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God; being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: whom God set forth to be a propitiation, through faith, in his blood...*" (Rom. 3:23-25). Salvation is found through the blood of Christ and man contacts that blood through the obedient act of baptism (see Heb. 9:14; I Pet. 3:21).

## Concluding Remarks

What is your identity? What is your "religion?" Are you saved or lost? Have you followed the precise instructions in God's word to be identified as saved and forgiven of your sins? We hope and pray that you will see that man cannot afford to concoct his own means of salvation. Test each man who tells you how to be saved (I Jn. 4:1ff). Instructions that are found in the Bible should be received with open arms. Those instructions that cannot be found in the Bible are to be rejected.

# The Bible

## Introduction:

Thomas Paine once said, “The Bible is a book that has been read more and examined less than any book that ever existed.” Unfortunately there is a lot of truth to this statement. While God demands man’s diligence in study (II Tim. 2:15) more often than not man is ignorant of God’s word (I Cor. 3:1ff). This morning we will focus on identifiers in the Bible. The Bible identifies true religion, who the saved and lost are, and the means whereby man is saved.

### I. The Bible Identifies true Religion (James 1:27):

- A. There are currently more than 10,000 separate religions in the world. Within those 10,000 religions is “Christianity.” Within Christianity alone there are more than 30,000 different denominations (see World Religions / Annual Editions iv).
- B. God is not the author of all this religious confusion (see I Cor. 14:32).
- C. The Bible teaches that there is one true religion:
  - 1. One interpretation of the Bible (II Pet. 1:20-21)
  - 2. One God / faith / church / and baptism (Eph. 4:1ff).
  - 3. All true believers are to be ONE in mind and religious direction (I Cor. 1:10; Rom. 15:4; Phil. 1:27).

### II. The Bible Identifies who the saved and lost are (Matt. 18:11):

- A. Mankind is blessed with one to live. We have one chance at getting our eternal abode set.
- B. The Bible tells us that few will be in heaven while multitudes will be in hell (Matt. 7:13ff).
- C. The Bible leaves no question as to who is lost and who will be saved from hell (Rom. 2:3ff; I Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:21 etc.).

### III. The Bible Identifies the MEANS whereby man is Saved (Matt. 1:21):

- A. The saved are those who have received the gracious and free gift of God (Rom. 5:12-18).
- B. Those JUSTIFIED are those who have received the free gift of God (i.e., the forgiveness of their sins [see Eph. 2:8 comp. to Eph. 1:7]).
- C. Precise and exact instructions are delivered in the book of Acts regarding how people received the forgiveness of their sins.

## Conclusion:

What is your identity? What is your “religion?” Are you saved or lost? Have you followed the precise instructions in God’s word to be identified as saved and forgiven of your sins? We hope and pray that you will see that man cannot afford to concoct his own means of salvation. Test each man who tells you how to be saved (I Jn. 4:1ff). Instructions that are found in the Bible should be received with open arms. Those instructions that cannot be found in the Bible are to be rejected.

