

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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Philip Preached Jesus

Philip and the Eunuch

Acts 8 records the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. The eunuch was a man of great authority from Ethiopia. He was placed over the treasure of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. The eunuch was also a man who believed and worshiped God. Acts 8 picks up with the eunuch apparently spending some unspecified time in Jerusalem worshipping and was now returning to his homeland of Ethiopia. Philip had been directed by the Spirit to go to this man of Ethiopia. It is most probable that this Philip was one of the original seven men elected to serve tables in Jerusalem (see Acts 6:1-5). The great persecution that occurred against the saints in Jerusalem caused all Christians, except the apostles, to flee the city. Seeing that the saints had left there were no more tables to serve. Philip travels north to the city of Samaria and “*preaches the word*” “*proclaiming the Christ*” (Acts 8:4-5). The result of such preaching was that “*both men and women were baptized*” (Acts 8:12). After the events of Samaria an angel of the Lord speaks to Philip and commands him to travel south, past Jerusalem, unto Gaza. Philip runs into the eunuch while on his way to Gaza.

The Conversion of the Eunuch

The eunuch was reading aloud from the book of Isaiah. Philip approaches the eunuch’s chariot and overhears the man reading from Isaiah 53:7f. Philip takes this as an opportunity to introduce himself to the eunuch by asking him if he understood what he was reading. The eunuch, in a humble manner, states, “*How can I, except some one shall guide me?*” (Acts 8:31) The Isaiah text was a clear prophecy of the unjust and humiliating experience that Christ would suffer on the cross. Luke, the narrator of the book of Acts, records the fact that Philip then, “*Preached unto him Christ*” (Acts 8:35). The progression of thoughts that remain of the Ethiopian’s conversion are purposely vague. Luke simply records, “*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch saith, Behold, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he*

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!

Tom Witherspoon will begin his cancer treatment on 5 January. The course of action is to kill the cancer cells by firing protons into them. This will be much less invasive than surgery. He will require about 38 treatments over the next 6 weeks.

Holiday Travelers:

Please remember all of our people who will be on the road of travel during this holiday season. We also thank God for those who have traveled here to be with loved ones and we pray that you have a safe return home.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
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baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, for he went on his way rejoicing” (Acts 8:36-39). Within a few verses we have the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch and a great example to all today who would desire to become a Christian.

What is Preaching Jesus?

If one were to turn to the conversion of the Eunuch for a lone example of what to do to be saved there would be many holes to fill in. We read at Acts 8:35 that Philip preached Jesus and then the very next verse we find the eunuch being baptized. What did Philip say that led the eunuch to be baptized?

Let me suggest that before we read one verse past the Acts 8:35 statement of Philip preaching Jesus we already know everything that was said. Our knowledge of the details revolving around “preaching Jesus” comes not from Acts 8:35ff but rather from Acts chapters 2-8. The eunuch’s baptism only solidifies the meaning of “preaching Jesus” for us. Let me explain.

Acts 2:16-47 reveals the first gospel sermon preached by an apostle after the death of Christ. The apostle Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, preached Christ. Peter told his audience about Jesus, his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension into heaven to be with the Father. Peter taught the people that they must believe and confess that this Jesus, whom they crucified, was the Christ. Those who believed and made this confession were told to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of their sins (Acts 2:38). Three thousand people followed Peter’s instructions. Acts 4 reveals two thousand more people being added so that their numbers were now five thousand. The two thousand had the exact same message preached unto them. The same message was preached to the new believers at Acts 5:14 and 6:1. When we come to Acts 8 we find Philip preaching to the Samaritans and the consequence was that they were baptized (Acts 8:12). Then we come to the eunuch and we find him being baptized (Acts 8:38). Why was the eunuch baptized? What was involved in “preaching Jesus?” The answer is contextually simple. The eunuch was baptized for the same reason that those on Pentecost and those in Samaria were baptized and that was for the remission of their sins (Acts 2:38). Preaching Jesus was a uniform message that involved convicting people of their sins and explaining to them the redeeming blood of Jesus. Those who believed were instructed to be baptized so that they would receive the benefits of the blood of Christ; i.e., justification (Rom. 5:1ff). Have you had Jesus preached to you? Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins? I pray that you would hear, believe, confess the name of Christ, repent, be baptized for the remission of your sins, and remain faithful all the days of your life.

The Reality of Heaven and Hell

The subject of man's salvation was on the minds of people during the days of Jesus and the apostles (see Lk. 13:22-30). Salvation was the topic of consideration on the Day of Pentecost after Christ's death on the cross (see Acts 2:21, 40, 47). People were concerned about their salvation (Acts 16:30-31). The Bible has much to say about man's salvation. Man's natural question ought to be, "What is it that we are to be saved from?" The word of God tells us that there will come a day when God's wrath will be poured out over the wicked (Rom. 2:5-10; 5:9; II Thess. 1:5-10). Jesus said, "*They that have done good unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of judgment*" (Jn. 5:29). This lesson shall examine the subject of Heaven and hell.

I. History reveals men who could care less about God's salvation:

- A. Cain (Gen. 4:6-9; Jude 11).
- B. All flesh upon the earth (Gen. 6:5)
- C. Esau (Gen. 25:27-34; Heb. 12:16-17)
- D. The people of Israel (Deut. 31:27).
- E. The scribes and Pharisees (Matt. 5:20; 15:7-9)
- F. Judas Iscariot (Jn. 13:1ff)
- G. False teachers (II Pet. 2:1ff)

II. History reveals men who cared about spiritual matters and their salvation:

- A. Able (Gen. 4)
- B. Noah and his family (Gen. 6)
- C. Abraham (Gen 15:6; 18:19)
- D. Joseph (Gen. 37)
- E. Moses (Deut. 34:10)
- F. Joshua (Josh. 24:14ff)
- G. Judges
- H. David (I Sam. 17ff).
- I. The apostles

III. What is at stake? Heaven and Hell

- A. Hell:
 1. A place of eternal fire and darkness (Jude 7, 13)
 2. A fire furnace (Matt. 13:42) where fire is not quenched (Matt. 3:12).
 3. A lake of fire that burns eternally (Rev. 14:10; 20:10; 21:8).
 4. A place of eternal fiery misery (Mk. 9:43-48).
- B. Heaven:
 1. A place of eternal perfection for the immortal bodies of the saints (Leviticus).
 2. A place where Satan has no space, authority, or presence period (Rev. 20:10).
 3. Without Satan there will be no temptation, no death, no pain, hunger, thirst, or sorrow (Rev. 21:1-5).

Conclusion:

The day of the Lord will come. The life I live now will determine where my eternal abode shall be (Rev. 21:6-8). Those whose lives considered God and made this manifest by their faithfulness shall sing the new song unto God in heaven (Rev. 5:9). Those who obeyed not the Lord shall experience torment, burning flesh, gnashing of their teeth in anguish as their flesh burns and they are consumed by worms eternally. Let us decide this day to follow Jesus and never turn back. There is too much at stake to be apathetic about heaven and hell.