

In Our Prayers...

**Requester's name is in parentheses*

Matt Sims (Debbie Sutherlin) – Debbie Sutherlin's cousin, Matt, has been in treatment in a Phoenix hospital for extreme infection.

Melinda Black (Susie Puckett) – Melinda (Susie's cousin) has had some complications following a recent procedure. She is showing some signs of improvement.

Ongoing Health Concerns — Lyle Provost; Shirlean Johnson; Jim Beaver; Miriam Rodriguez; Vashara; Ken Williard's daughter-in-law; Yolanda & Judy Woody; Cailin Porter; Bobby Arnett; David Frederick; Rick Hales; Bill Harrell; Josh Martin; Karen Crowson; Terry Wells.

Door for the Word – Pray for relationships with the lost that lead to opportunities to talk about Jesus.

Announcements

Potluck Sunday Please make plans to participate in the September potluck fellowship next Sunday, September 27th. We will share a meal together immediately following morning worship assembly.

Guest Preacher Next Sunday, September 27th, Fred Willmon will teach and preach while Nathan and Brandy are out of town.

Work Day at the Church Building Saturday, October 10th, beginning at 8 am we will work on some chores around the church building. Our main focus will be on finishing the exterior paint on the education building.

The church of Christ in Durango

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Service Times

Bible Study
Sunday 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday 6:30 p.m.

Worship
Sunday 10:20 a.m.



The Durango Disciple

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Jesus is God's Plan of Salvation

By Nathan G. Wheeler

"[I]n order to be saved this side of the cross, [all people] must obey the one plan of salvation given by God and preached by the apostles, i.e., hear, believe, repent, confess and be baptized," (Dave Miller, *Piloting the Strait: A Guidebook for Assessing Change in Churches of Christ*, Pulaski, TN: Sain Publications, 1996, p. 285).

Those five "steps" in the plan of salvation are familiar to anyone whose soul has been nurtured in Churches of Christ. When we look again at the New Testament we can easily recognize that everyone became a Christian in this way.

On the other hand, to speak of these as "steps" of salvation is to speak about them in a way that is unheard of in the New Testament documents. Likewise, a closer look at key New Testament passages shows that the Apostles did not teach these five things as God's plan of salvation. Rather, they preached that Jesus is God's plan for the salvation of all sinners.

When talking about becoming a Christian, Acts 2:38 is indispensable. Peter sets forth the process when he says,

Continued Inside



Jesus is God's Plan of Salvation

Continued from Front Page

"Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Yet, as necessary as these things are Peter did not include them in his gospel message.

Rather, Peter's preaches Jesus as the focus of God's plan for our salvation. Peter says that the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus was according to God's "plan" (v. 23). God planned to raise Jesus from the dead (vv. 30-32). God planned to exalt the risen Jesus to his own right hand (v. 33). Finally, God planned for Jesus to pour out the Holy Spirit (v. 33).

So, according to Peter, God's plan of salvation was and is that Jesus died on the cross for our sins, and that he gives the Holy Spirit to everyone who is baptized in his name.

The Apostle Paul writes about God's plan of salvation in his letter to the Ephesians. In chapter one he writes that God's eternal plan is to bestow "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ," (v. 3). So, everyone who is "in Christ" is made "holy and blameless" before God (v. 4). We are sons by adoption (v. 5). We are redeemed, forgiven of our sins "through His blood" (v. 7).

Paul goes farther. He teaches that God's plan of salvation does not end with providing our forgiveness and status as sons. In fact, those blessings are among means to a far greater goal. God's plan is that at the end of everything, "all things" will be "summed up" in Christ (Eph 1:9-10). That is, Christ's kingdom will include absolutely everything in the spiritual realm and in the heavens and earth.

So, within God's larger plan of salvation, the Church serves an important role. The Church is the union in Christ of many different people who otherwise would have nothing to do with each other (Eph 3:6, 9-10). Without the Spirit's help, this is impossible, especially for any length of time (1 Cor 12:12-13). Therefore, the unity of the Church points the world to Jesus, who is God's one and only plan of salvation.

The Disciples' Prayer

Luke 11:1-13

Overview:

- A. Jesus provides a _____ .
- B. Pray _____ .
- C. God will always give the _____ _____ when asked.

The Disciples' Prayer:

1. "Father"
2. "Sanctify Your Name"
3. "Your Kingdom Come"
4. "Each Day Our Daily Bread"
5. "Forgiveness of Our Sins"
6. "Lead Us Not Into Overwhelming Trial"

Weekly Bible Reading Schedule

September 21	Mon	Jeremiah 20 – 23
September 22	Tue	Jeremiah 24 – 27
September 23	Wed	Jeremiah 28 – 31
September 24	Thur	Jeremiah 32 – 35
September 25	Fri	Jeremiah 36 – 39