



**DIOCESE OF TIRUNELVELI
BETHESDA C.S.I. TAMIL CHURCH
PUNE**



GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH

*THE LORD IS GOOD, A STRONGHOLD IN THE DAY OF TROUBLE; AND HE KNOWS THOSE WHO TRUST IN HIM.
NAHUM 1:7.*

MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

By A.Johnson (Catechist)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greeting to you all in the name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ.

This month message was taken from the book of Psalm 19:14.

"Let the words of mouth... be acceptable in the sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer". I would like to give a topic for this verse as "A motto for the month".

To explain this verse I wish to narrate an incident happened in a Christian Family.

One day some relatives came to visit an elderly Christian lady to her house. They saw on her kitchen wall a portion of a scripture verse embroidered on a square of cloth. It read, "Let the words of my mouth be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord". Noticing that they kept glancing at it, she explained "Mottoes like that are old-fashioned, but I would never part with this one. Years ago an aunt who was one of God's dear saints made it for us and brought it over one afternoon. When my husband came home from work that day, he immediately noticed it. "I'll bet aunt abi made this for you as a gift", he said. "Your right", I replied. But it's yours as much as mine. In fact, aunt abi said she was thinking of you just as much as of me when she made it. This remark apparently disturbed him because he was quite sensitive about a habit he had acquired. You see, the minute everything went wrong, he'd let go with some language that was not in keeping with his Christian testimony. The day after his aunt's visit something upset him and he came in ready to unleash his tongue about it. But as soon as he saw the motto, he stopped abruptly. Later when I started to repeat a bit of gossip, he pointed to those words, and I never finished the sentence. So you see, that gift changed our home and helped us to cleanse our thoughts and purify our conversation. "As the visitors left, one of them said; let's ask the Lord to set watch before our lips so that our words too may be acceptable". Palms 19:14 is a good motto for every Christian.

*Lord, put a seal upon my lips,
Help me to guard with care
The things I say and swift repeat
O tongue of mine, beware!*



Many things are opened my mistake, but none more often than the mouth. May the God help our mouth from gossiping and unwanted talks.

May God bless you all.

STORY FOR THE MONTH

Sardis, an army city in small Asia. This name has come in Bible also. Revelation 3: 1. This city is situated on the top a steep hill. So people of the city think that enemies can not enter into the city to capture them. And that was the fact also, that no body was able to capture them.

Once the king this city and the neighboring country had war against each other. The king of Sardis was defeated in the war. But he didn't loose courage. He thought that we have our safe city, which can not be captured by anybody. I will go inside my city, take little rest, repair our weapons and then go for fighting with that king. Mean while that king has surrounded the Sardis city. 15 days over, but they couldn't get any means of entering there. So that king gave an announcement that, if anybody find a way to enter into the city will be given some gift for that work. So those people were also trying to get a place for entering inside and also to get the gift.

One day a soldier's cap fell down from the wall by mistake. That soldier came down to take the cap which fell down. He came down easily, took the cap and went to the wall again. This



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was noticed by a soldier of other city who were looking for a chance to enter inside. He brought 2 more soldiers with him, went and saw that there was a small opening on the hill. They understood that through that opening only that Sardis soldier came down and went very easily and decided to enter the city through that opening. At night the soldiers who were in duty went to sleep thinking that no one can enter into their city. That time the other city soldier who has seen the way entered into the city opened the door of the city and allowed all their soldiers to enter inside and captured the so called safe city.

See, because of the carelessness of the soldiers the city was captured by their enemies.

Dear children, don't think that I am attending the church, Sunday school regularly, born in an orthodox family, my father is the church secretary, my grandfather is a priest, my mother is Sunday school teacher, so I am a big short in the church and satan can not capture me. No it's not like that. You should be very careful and alert in all your talks, behavior, activities and all your ways. Read Matthew 12: 43-45, 15:18, 19 and 26: 40, 41. If Satan finds a small way in your heart he will enter and capture you. So as Jesus said **BE ALERT, WATCH AND PRAY THAT YE ENTER NOT INTO TEMPTATIONS.**

May God bless you and protect you from all evils.

ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

As we are going to conduct Baptism service this month, I am every much induced that this type of thing is required or not. So I intended to share with u my thought, so I am writing it.

IS IT NECESSARY TO BE BAPTIZED AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Water Baptism was introduced by John the Baptist. It was initially a baptism or repentance. Baptism does not save you, nor are there any examples of infants being baptized in the Bible. Baptism is a public demonstration of one's commitment to Christ.

Matthew 3:13-17

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him saying "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

The first thing Jesus did before starting his ministry was to get baptized. As soon as he was baptized, the Holy Spirit came upon him and God spoke to confirm that Jesus was indeed who he claimed to be, the Son of God.

1 Peter 3:21

...and this water symbolize baptism that now saves you also, not the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.

From this scripture some think that baptism saves you, therefore they baptize infants so that if they should die, they are then saved. However, the Bible is very clear that the way to heaven is not through baptism, but through accepting Jesus as your saviour. Peter clearly qualifies his statement by adding "not the removal of dirt from the body" meaning that baptism is not going to wash away your sins, it's only Jesus that can do that. Baptism is simply a public demonstration that you have accepted Jesus as your savior. So of course if you have done that, you are saved.

The thief on the cross that repented was not baptized, yet Jesus said that he would see him in paradise that day. So the Bible is clear that baptism alone will not save you, it must be preceded by salvation.



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Romans 6:3-4

Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

This is one of the best descriptions of what being saved and baptized does with an example of Jesus' death and resurrection. When you are born again and baptized you turn away from your old life and start a new one with Jesus. Therefore baptism is a public commitment to that decision. As the song says "I have decided to follow Jesus..."

saved when he says "washing of rebirth and renewal". First we must have the re-born experience before we would want to choose baptism.

Acts 2:38-39

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, for all whom the Lord our God will call"

This was on the day of Pentecost when the Apostles were gathered in Jerusalem. Peter preached to the crowd about Jesus and when he finished they were "cut to the heart" and wanted to know what to do in order to believe in Jesus. This scripture also shows us that baptism is for all of us.

Acts 8:35-36

Then Phillip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. As they traveled along the road they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

When the eunuch believed the story of Jesus, he also wanted to be baptized to show that he had become a follower of Jesus. So Phillip baptized him. It should also be noted that most of the baptism performed in the New Testament were done outdoors usually in a river and that the person baptized was totally immersed in water, they didn't just pour some water on his head. Notice they went "down into the water".

Acts 9:17-19

Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

This is the story of the Apostle Paul's conversion. He met Jesus on the road and for three days was blind because of the bright light. God told Ananias to go to him for he "was praying". Obviously he believed in Jesus at that point and who wouldn't after an encounter like he had.

Acts 16:13-15

...We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. When she and the members of her household were baptized she invited us to her home.

Although Lydia was a believer in God, she had not heard the gospel of Jesus Christ. When she received it, she was baptized.

Acts 16:30-33

He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and

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washed their wounds then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Acts 18:7-8

Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus a worshipper of God. Crispus the synagogue ruler and his entire household believed in the Lord and many of the Corinthians who heard him believed and were baptized.

Acts 19: 1-6

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism" they replied. Paul said "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus. On hearing this they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

The disciples traveled from town to town preaching the gospel and baptizing converts. Paul met some men who only received John the Baptist's baptism. Once they heard about Jesus and were baptized in water, they also received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes this happens both at the same time as it did to these men.

If you are a believer in Jesus Christ and have never been baptized I would encourage you to do so. If you were baptized when you were a child as I was, you should get baptized again because your first baptism was not your choice; it was your parent's choice. Baptism will not save you, and you are still saved even if you are not baptized, but you will certainly feel that you have a closer relationship with God if you do.

TO THINK AND ACT:

Seven days without break makes one weak.

Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

Don't pray to escape from trouble and to be comfortable in your emotions.

Pray to do the will of God in every situation.

NOTHING ELSE IS WORTH LIKE PRAYING.



Baptism servive - 14th Aug'11

Pune Tamil Family Retreat - 3rd Sep'11

Harvest Festival - 4th Sep'11

ANSWERS OF THE SEPULCHERS FROM THE BIBLE:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. GENESIS 23: 19. | 3. JUDGES 8: 32. | 5. II SAMUEL 4: 12. | 7. I SAMUEL 31: 13. | 9. I SAMUEL 28:3. |
| 2. DEUTERONOMY 34: 6. | 4. GENESIS 35: 19 | 6. II KINGS 9: 28. | 8. JOSHUA 24: 30 | 10. MATTHEW 27: 57, 60. |

MEMORY VERSES FOR THIS MONTH

- ❖ **07/08/2011 JOHN 6: 56.**
- ❖ **14/08/2011 MARK 10: 14.**
- ❖ **21/08/2011 PHILEMON 11.**
- ❖ **28/08/2011 LUKE 4 : 22.**

BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH

FIND THE HOUSE/PALACE FROM THE BIBLE:

1. Whose house was called a house of Cedar?
2. Whose house took 13 years to be built?
3. Who built his house and lay with ivory?
4. In which house did Pekah become king after assassinating king Pekahiah?
5. The house in which was kept the decree of King Cyrus?
6. In which palace was Nehemiah serving as a cupbearer to the king?
7. In whose palace did a man's hand appeared and wrote on the wall?
8. Which palace appeared in the vision of Daniel when he saw a ram with 2 horns, one longer than the other?
9. Who palace God said, a fire from the walls of Damascus would destroy?
10. Whose palace did Peter walk in and sat with the servants?



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