



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



GOD'S PROMISE FOR THIS MONTH

GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TROUBLE.

PSALMS 46:1

MESSAGE FOR THE MONTH

By A.Johnson (Catechist)

Dear Believers in Christ,

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

"Now if any one does not have the spirit of Christ he's not his" Romans 8:9

I felt very inadequate when in my teens I was asked to teach a Bible class and present the gospel in jail services and street meetings. But I knew I could rely on the Holy Spirit. He helped me then and he still does it.

A few years later when I served in the village ministry, I encountered strong temptations. Again I thought about the Holy Spirit, remembering that my body is his temple (I Cor 6:19). I asked Him to keep me from falling and He did.

Recently I felt a sense of oneness with the people in a car with a bumper sticker that read, "Jesus is coming". Again I reflected on the Spirit of God, who unites all believers in Christ (I Cor 12:13)

All these ministries of the Holy Spirit had their beginning in the great event we celebrate Pentecost last month. As we read and study the second chapter of Acts, we must be careful that we don't get side tracked on these aspects of his coming that sincere Christians may disagree on. We must concentrate instead on the fact that Pentecost ushered in the age of the spirit. Ever since that day, He has enabled believers to serve the Lord effectively, to live godly lives and to feel a deep sense of oneness with all who believe on Jesus Christ.

Aren't you thankful for Pentecost Sunday!

"What Christ did for us, The Holy Spirit does in us"

May God bless you and fill you with the Holy Spirit abundantly. Amen.

STORY FOR THE MONTH

A boy by name Willy was staying in a big city. As he was not having ability to study, he was working in a paper shop for selling the daily news papers.

Though he was not able to study, he had a big compassion for Lord Jesus Christ. On Sundays he used to go to church as well as attend Sunday school regularly. One Sunday the Sunday school teacher told them about the incident of Jesus blessing the children in Mark 10:13-15 and told that Jesus loves the children very much. She taught them the song JESUS LOVES ME. Willy was much fascinated by Jesus's attachment with children and the way He blessed the little children who went to Him. From that day onwards, he loved that song Jesus loves me and used to sing the song while selling the news paper.

One day night when he was selling papers, unfortunately he came near a wine shop and singing the song Jesus loves me. That time a drunkard came out of the wine shop stood near Willy and was listening to the song till he completed it fully. Then he asked Willy does your Jesus loves me? Willy told him, yes uncle He loves you. Again that person asked Willy whether Jesus loves me, a drunkard? Willy told him, yes uncle he loves you also. Uncle come with me, I will take you to the church pastor, who will guide you to know more about Jesus Christ. Willy took that drunkard to the church pastor's house and told him that he met him in front of a wine shop while selling the papers. The pastor first made him to take bath,

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gave him new clothes and food. When he came to normal he told him about the living god Jesus Christ and told him that Jesus loves him more. He listened to what the pastor was telling and accepted Jesus as his personal savior.

Dear children see how a poor boy brought one drunkard to Jesus Christ by singing the song he learnt at Sunday school? You should also learn more songs and sing those songs which will help many people to know about our lord as well as will help to console many people who listen to your songs in their difficulties and get blessings from our lord Jesus Christ. May God bless you all.

ARTICLES FOR THE MONTH

Last week I got a call from a girl in Pune after seeing our website (csitamilchurchpune.org). She asked me I searching for a Church in Pune. I replied, "This CSI Tamil Church by the Diocese of Tirunelveli". She immediately replied to me "I am Born Again". I said to her, there is no Church in Pune in the name of Born Again. Then she said, "No, no.. I don't want to go to CSI, CNI, and Methodist Churches. I am looking for a Born again Church". I replied to her, "I am unable to understand her need".

Then I thought to myself, she is saying "I am Born Again" but she doesn't understand the scripture, for her the Preacher or Pastor in New Life Churches words/preaching is the Gods Word. I feel pity for the girl. This is the saying of the New Life Church members and not only with this particular girl. So I intended to share with u my thought, so I am writing it.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE BORN AGAIN OR SAVED?

In order to be able to spend eternity with God in Heaven, we need to be saved or born again. Because we have all sinned and inherited a sinful nature from Adam, we need to have our sins forgiven. Jesus came to earth and died on the cross to shed his blood to pay for our sins. Now all we have to do is accept what he did for us and we will have all our sins forgiven and can spend eternity with God in Heaven. We were disconnected from God because of sin, but Jesus came to reconnect us to God.

John 3:1-7

Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him." In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born." Jesus answered "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying you must be born again.

John 1:12-13

Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision, or a husband's will, but born of God.

These two scriptures make it very clear that we cannot enter heaven unless we are born again. Nicodemus, had never heard of this and thought Jesus was talking in physical terms. But Jesus made it clear to him that we are all born once physically, now we had to be re-born spiritually. When Adam sinned, he was disconnected from God, spiritually. God

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told him that if he ate from the tree he was told not to eat from he would die. Well, he did eat from it and he did not drop dead. But he did die...spiritually. Since we all inherited the sinful nature from Adam, we are all born spiritually dead and need to be spiritually re-born. In the second scripture the Bible makes it clear that we are not automatically children of God as some think we are. We become children of God when we receive Jesus as our Savior. Then we become children of God. Our spirit comes alive and we are re-connected to God.

1 John 5:1

everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...

Ephesians 1:13

and you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession...

By receiving Jesus as your Savior, you become born of God, or born again. When you are spiritually re-born, God sends you his Holy Spirit to live in you to help and guide you. This is his promise or guarantee that you are saved. When you die, or if Jesus comes before you die, then you will inherit eternal life. But for now it's a promise, and God is always good on his promises.

Romans 8:14-15

...because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba" (Daddy) Father." The Spirit testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.

When you are born again and receive the Holy Spirit, your spirit comes alive and God's spirit and your spirit are re-connected. That's when you can really "feel" God in your life and begin to have a close relationship with him. That's why I call him my Dad because he is more than just a father; he is a real "Dad."

Romans 10:9-10

that if you confess with your mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Acts 16:30-31

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..."

The instructions in the Bible are very clear as to what we must do to be saved. It is totally our decision, and no one else can do it for us. We must make the choice ourselves, it is not automatic, and each person has to make their own. Because our eternal destiny hinges on "believing in Jesus" let's take a closer look at what "believing" means.

The Greek word used for the word believes is the word "pisteuo" and it means three things. It means to give mental acknowledgement to, to trust in, and to rely upon. When I read this many years ago, I could see how God chose exactly the right words to convey his meaning. When you first believe in Jesus, it's because you have heard or read about him, and you have come to a decision that this is true. You have given mental acknowledgement to what you heard about him. So you accept him as your Lord and Savior and trust in what he did for you on the cross. Once you get to know Jesus more, you begin to rely on him for everything.

What an awesome God we serve.

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FIND THE SEPULCHERS OF THESE PEOPLE FROM THE BIBLE

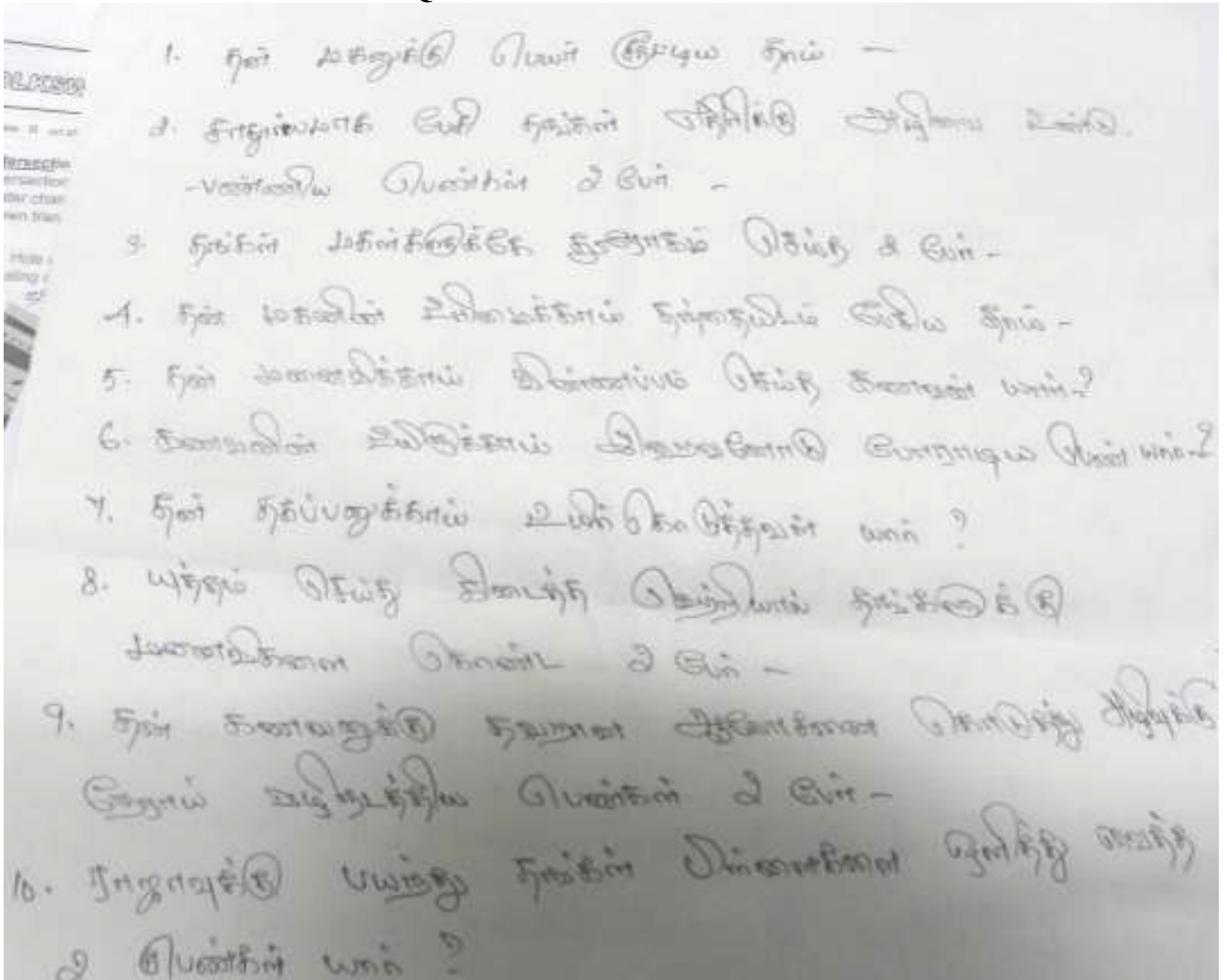
- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Abraham buried Sarah here. | 7. King Saul and his son Jonathan's bones were buried here. |
| 2. The lord God buried Moses here. | 8. Joshua was buried here. |
| 3. Gideon was buried here. | 9. Samuel the judge was buried here. |
| 4. Jacob buried Rachel here. | 10. The body of the Savior of the world was laid here. |
| 5. Saul's son Ish-bosheth was buried here. | |
| 6. Ahaziah the king of Judah was buried here. | |

TO THINK AND ACT

MEMORY VERSES FOR THIS MONTH

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| ➤ 03/07/2011 JAMES 1:5 | ➤ 24/07/2011 ACTS 4:35 b |
| ➤ 10/07/2011 EPHESIANS 2:20 | ➤ 31/07/2011 JOHN 3:5 |
| ➤ 17/07/2011 MARK 6:12,13 | |

BIBLE QUIZ FOR THE MONTH



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