

the confidence through faith to not look back into the world when our little world turns upside down. The Bible gives us strength and wisdom to preach and teach others on how to be saved and be a part of God's family. The Bible gives us the confidence that we will inherit the crown of life if we stay faithful to the very end. This is how we as Christians get our confidence, through the Bible (God's Word), through his Son who died for all mankind. Always remember, our actions will reveal what is in our hearts.

By Bill Davis

Conversions in Acts

Pentecost – Acts 2:14-41

Samaria – Acts 8:5-13

Eunuch – Acts 8:35-39

Saul – Acts 9:17-18

Cornelius – Acts 10:34-48

The Jailer – Acts 16:32

Lydia – Acts 16:13

Each one was baptized for remission of sins, but none of them said the so-called "sinner's prayer."

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Faithful Sayings

Olsen Park Church of Christ

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Services

Sunday: 9:30 a.m.
10:20 a.m.
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Elders:

Ken Ford
Charles Kelley
Pat Ledbetter

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Pat Goguen
Neil Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Fred Perez
Rusty Scott

Evangelist:

Kyle Pope

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Our Confidence in Christ

All of us, I am sure will watch the news on TV and read the paper to keep up with the happenings in our little world. And as we watch the news, I am sure we tend to lose our confidence in the world around us. We see the oil prices go up almost daily, and this is reflected at the gas pumps daily. We see the stock market go up and down like a roller coaster. We see people we know getting laid off from their jobs. We see people losing their homes due to the unstable housing market. The cost of living gets higher and higher each day. The cost of having insurance gets more expensive to have, then when you need the Insurance they won't pay. All of these issues will make a sane person lose his confidence in where he stands in this crazy world today.

But there is one place and one person where we can have all the confidence we need because God's Word will never change and Christ said Himself He would never leave or forsake us as seen in Hebrews 13:5. As Christians today, how can we have the confi-

dence that we need to be strong in Christ and to be bold in facing the problems in our everyday lives? Indeed, one may ask, “How can a person be confident in Christ after he has become a Christian?” First of all, we can gain confidence through a life of Prayer. (Phil. 4: 6-7) James 1:5-6 reads: **“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.”**

Also we can gain our confidence by reading and studying the Bible daily to gain the Confidence we need. Psalm 23 reads: **“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever.”** When we read the Bible we know

for a fact that Christ is with us when we go through persecution and difficult times as seen Romans 8:35—**“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”**

When we read the Bible we know that Christ will help us to overcome the evil in this world as seen in Ephesians 6:10-13 —**“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.”**

As we see in reading the Bible the only way any Christian can have the confidence he needs to go through life and to face the problems of this world is through Christ. You see, Christ is the solid foundation for our confidence. A good example of confidence and boldness can be found in the Apostle Paul. Paul’s strength came from Christ as seen

in 2 Tim. 4: 17-18—**“But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. 18 And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!”**

Paul had the confidence in Christ that he was not ashamed of Christ or the Gospel he preached. In 2 Timothy 1 :8 he writes: **“Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God.”** Paul’s confidence in Christ led him to exhibit no fear in his daily life as can be seen in Philippians 1:12-14. As Christians today, can we honestly say these Words, *“We have no Fear.”* A good example of Paul not allowing fear to get the best of him while he was preaching the gospel is seen in 2 Corinthians 6:3-10—**“We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed. But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by**

kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”

Today, as in Paul’s days, we need to step out of our comfort zone and talk to those at our jobs, our family members, and people we meet on the street when the opportunity presents itself. And most of all, Paul’s confidence in Christ led him to speak bold and confidently to those he came into contact with as seen in Ephesians 6:19-20. The question is, do we or do I have the confidence to speak boldly about the life of Christ? Do I have the confidence to not be afraid of being a Christian? Do I have the strength through the confidence in Christ to keep going when life gets too hard to bear? I dare say all of us who are Christians had better say, “yes.” And the only way any of us will ever have the confidence we need in Christ is through prayer, much study of God’s Word, and total obedience toward Christ in all that He said. You see, the Bible is a gift from God to help us gain