

LEE'S LOVE STORY

By

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Author's Note:

THE PURPOSE OF THIS STORY IS ABOUT A MAN AND HIS WIFE RETURNING TO THEIR HOME STATE AND SETTLING IN AN URBAN FARMING AREA.

Where the Holy Bible is quoted, references are taken from the Updated New American Standard, unless otherwise noted.

There are five main characters involved. They will be known as the Preacher, the Teacher, the Evangelist, the Student, and Sweet Heart, Student's wife of 65 years: Sweetie, for short, under certain conditions.

Editor's Note:

The intensity of Student should not be considered typical for the average beginning student of the Word. But the descriptions of events are very real, taken from Student's notes and journals. Student was obviously a driven man; being 79 years old when he was immersed into Christ, he had a great concern for finding the Truth; both for himself and his loved-ones.

Jesus

This story begins about seven years ago when Sweet Heart discovered there was a weekly Bible study on Fridays for women. Student knew this because a friend had invited him to come to his men's study several times. But there was no way he would go, as Student was fed up with anything pertaining to church or any old Bible study. Student had seen it all by watching religious church leaders who were more interested in constructing large church buildings and were attempting to start county-wide televised evangelical church services. Student was also aware that his Sweetie had her eye out for another crack at getting the Word of God on Sundays.

Soon, Sweetie had located a small nondenominational church and invited Student to come with her. "What did I tell you before Sweet Heart, we are not going to start that again are we? You can go if you want, but I have better things do," said Student. This went on for a couple more weeks, with poor Student getting the cold shoulder. "She just does not know what she is putting me through," Student muttered under his breath.

Within 3 weeks of attendance, Sweet Heart had convinced Student to try it just once. "I am so impressed with these folks," she said. "They even asked about you, our kids and grandchildren, and what we do to keep busy." Student came right back with, "Sounds like a bunch of busy bodies, maybe even gossips. You know how I hate gossips!"

"It is nothing like that! Why this Preacher would never allow it," responded Sweet Heart.

"What about this preacher's teaching. Is he an authority on what the Pentagon is planning and doing every day?" said Student.

"He has some good ideas but keeps most of them to himself," said Sweetie. With a twinkle in his eye Student replied, "He is not going to build a meg-a-church out there is he?"

"Nooo!" insisted Sweetie. "Come with me this next Sunday and see... Please."

The following Sunday, Student and Sweetie showed up at a fairly small building, which truly felt warm and cozy. After greetings and introductions, followed by a couple of songs, then came the dreaded message. After a sufficient amount of time, Student turned toward Sweetie and whispered, “This guy makes sense! He really knows where my hot buttons are.” From then on felt Student he had found his place to be on each Sunday. After church people came around to make Student and Sweetie feel welcome. It was unlike anything they had ever experienced before. There was talk about babies, a recent funeral, and a couple who Sweetie also knew that had just married. Student, turning to Sweetie said, “This is better than I could have imagined! How did you find this place Sweetie?” Student thought he heard her say, “God wants us here for now.”

Then one day a few years later, Student was shopping in a nearby town, when he came upon a booklet called GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION. It was put together by some man in another town halfway across the State. After reading the book several times, then taking the test found on the back pages, and flunking, Student began comparing the booklet’s information against what the Bible said. The writer of the booklet had been very, very careful, while quoting the Bible, not to change the words or meaning of any of the Scriptures. Student said to Sweetie, “I am going to make a call to this guy who put all this Scripture together. His name and picture are on the cover of the book.”

“Ok,” came her reply over the shoulder.

Student had already begun his call and soon was asked, “Where did you say you are from?”

Student gave him his phone number and location. Surprised the man said, “We have a man called Teacher close to where you live. Here is his phone number. He can answer any questions you might have.”

“Are you sure? Many of the Scriptures in your booklet contradict most of what I have been taught,” replied student... “Alright, I’ll give him a call. If it doesn’t work out I’ll be calling you back. Thanks, Goodbye.”

Student then turned back to Sweetie; “I was just told there is a man called Teacher living close to town that has one-on-one Bible studies concerning God’s Plan of Salvation. Can you imagine that? You wouldn’t think there could be two of these guys located anywhere, much less so close and available!”

Soon Student made a call to Teacher and told him, “I just got off the phone with the fellow who wrote the booklet God’s Plan of Salvation. He said that

you are giving one-on-one Bible studies. Is that really true?”

“Yes,” said the Teacher. “If you are interested we have some open time later next week... say Thursday?”

“That would work fine for me, I have to be in town that day anyway. We can work out the time and place later. By the way, you can call me Student. Thanks, I’ll be calling you early next week.”

A week had passed and Teacher had begun showing Student a study outline entitled **The Gospel in Scripture**, which read as follows:

A. Mark 16:15 *“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.’”*

B. 1st Corinthians 15: 1-8 (God’s definition of the Gospel) *“Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which you also received, in which you also stand, by which you also are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised up on the third day according to the scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also.**”*

C. Galatians 1: 6-9 (Warning not to distort the bible) *“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you the gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!”*

D. Romans 1: 16 (The Gospel must be believed) *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”*

E. 2nd Thessalonians 1: 6-9 (The Gospel must be obeyed) *“ For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not **obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.”*

F. Romans 6: 1-4 (How to obey the gospel) *“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that of us all who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into **His death**? Therefore we have been **buried with Him** through baptism into death, so that **as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father**, so we too might walk in newness of life.”*

When Student returned home after his first Bible study Sweetie asked, “How did that go’?”

“Great!” exclaimed Student. “With my every question Teacher said, ‘Let’s see what the Bible says about that, and he had me turn and read from the Scriptures.’”

After his second Bible study with Teacher, Student could barely wait to get home and share with Sweetie his excitement. Opening the door, he said, “Guess what we will be studying next... Jesus’ baptism in Matthew 3:16-17, along with Luke 3:21-22 and Luke 11:13. What do you think about that?” Sweetie, not knowing where all this was going, seemed to be cooling off towards Student’s new Bible study with Teacher.

“That sounds pretty good. Seems to me there is a lot of preparation and study, which I do not remember when I was saved,” Sweet Heart replied cautiously.

Undeterred, Student continued, “Well I have been waiting for this and have been skipping forward into the next few studies and can visualize Jesus baptism. It seems there is a lot in this that others may be missing. In the first

place why would the Son of God need to be baptized at all, much less publicly for everyone to see, if baptism were not a major part of salvation? Consider Matthew 3:11 *As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance* and Acts 2:38 *Peter said to them, '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.'* Sweetie, can you see the relationship between these two Scriptures?"

Her reply: "Maybe... we'll see about that later."

A week had passed and Student had been waiting with great expectation to get through the Gospel in Scripture study outline, which with any luck could even happen today. He had been getting away with jumping ahead of what Teacher had scheduled. Student already read the lesson early on that they were to study today regarding Jesus' baptism, or as Teacher always said, "immersion". Not only that, but Student had been quizzing Sweetie the past few days with his newly acquired "great judgement and wisdom."

"I'm out of here Sweetie. See you in a bit," as he shut the door.

"Bye... drive careful," she called after him. "Next thing you know, he's going to want to get baptized again," Sweat Heart thought as Student drove away.

Student, after joining Teacher in a prayer said, "Teacher, Sweetie and I have been talking about salvation. She believes she has salvation and that it can come to anyone who might happen to be with someone who could lead them into receiving Christ. I have been jumping around a bit in the Bible and have found two Scripture that go into great detail on salvation. Here let me show you. I'm sure there are others, but these two spell it out without a doubt: that one must repent, which must cause a difference in one's mind and behavior, and then, full immersion in water like Jesus did. Let's look first at Acts 2:37 and then 2:38."

Then Teacher said, "Hold it Student These are Scriptures in the book of Acts which are in your lesson today. Let's keep them in the order of the study as we've laid out before for you. However, we could possibly slip in another couple of verses for you to chew on this next week. Look up 1 Peter 3:20 - 21 and read it out loud."

"Thank you Teacher, this is the most fun I have had for years. You must enjoy these lessons also."

They had a good laugh over that, as Teacher replied, "I can't even begin to describe how much fun I'm having with your study!"

“OK Teacher, where did you tell me to look. Was it... ah, 1st Peter... ah... 3: 20 – 21? Yes, here it is.” Student then read aloud:

“...who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. Corresponding to that, BAPTISM NOW SAVES YOU—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

“This is the only place I know of in the Scriptures that specifically states that water immersion, or baptism, ‘saves’ a person,” commented Teacher. “But we had better get with the schedule or our time will be up before we get through today’s lesson.”

Excited with this new information, Student cheerfully replied, “Fine with me. You’re the teacher. So, where are we at? Oh yes, The Gospel in Scripture study outline.” Student then proceeded to scan the study sheet and pick up where they had left off:

G. Jesus’ baptism (immersion)

Matthew 3:16 -17 (An outside view) *After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

Luke 3: 21-22 (An inside view: “praying”) *Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, “You are My Beloved Son, in You I am well pleased.”*

Luke 11:13 (Need to ask for the Holy Spirit) *“If you the, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”*

H. Acts 2:22-36 (First time the Gospel is preached) *“Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourself know---this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and fore-knowledge of God you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it is impossible for Him to be held in its power. “For David says of Him, ‘I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. ‘YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.’ “Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. “And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS FLESH SUFFER DECAY. “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. “For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.’”*

*“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both **Lord and Christ**— this **Jesus** whom you crucified.*

Then, Teacher had Student read the audience’s response to the gospel as preached and Peter’s response to their question as to what to do, as stated in Acts 2:37-39.

“Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’

Peter said to them, '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. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.'"

By this time both Student and Teacher were running late on their respective schedules. "Hey teacher. Sorry we did not get through the entire study today. But that was great: tell me how anyone can dispute what we just read in Acts, Chapter 2? Any other meaning would have to be a contradiction, right? See you soon. Better get."

"Good job today Student...Have fun going through these Scriptures this week 'till we meet again," Teacher called out as Student rushed to his truck.

Reflecting as he drove home, Student's thoughts kept going back to the Scriptures that spelled out in great detail the only way one could receive salvation. He could not remember where they were in the Bible, but did remember that a full immersion in water was a required action for salvation.

Sweetie, as always was there to greet Student as he walked through the door. "Oh- Oh," she thought, "he has that look about him. I had better give him plenty of room tonight. Maybe he will be in the office and leave me alone so I can watch the football game."

During the evening meal, Student began to tell Sweetie what he had learned today. "I can't recall the four Scriptures that detail the exact way one gets salvation, but I do have a copy of today's Bible study. Would you mind if I did not watch the game tonight? I really need to go back over today's study. I might be able to see the end of the game."

"That's fine Student. I'll yell if there is something really good coming up." Sweet Heart smiled as she thought, "Three hours of uninterrupted pleasure!"

Student spent most of the evening going through the four Scripture verses that now seemed so crucial. As usual, he typed one copy for his own reference and another just in case Sweetie wanted to see one also. Student now understood from his studies that he had just been cruising along, not even thinking one way or the other if he was saved: he had just taken for granted that he was saved. "Am I the only one, or could there be others like me? No one has ever asked me 'When did you receive salvation and what did you do to receive it?'" he pondered.

Sweetie's copy was left where Student hoped she would read it. "She's probably never even heard of 1 Pet 3:20-21, especially the phrase '*baptism*'"

now saves you,’ Student thought to himself. By this time he had memorized the other two Scripture verses: Acts 2:37 and 38. Rolling through his mind, he quietly recited them: *“Now when they had heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do? Peter said to them, ‘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.”*

By this time, Student had engaged in several conversations with Sweetie; most of the time, salvation was the main topic. It always came down to the question: “Do we have salvation?” Sweetie’s answer never changed; she’d say, “Well I certainly do!” But she could only give a summer bible camp as a reference.

Student thought he had learned enough by this time to ask Teacher about this repentance thing, hoping it did not mean that he was going to have to make some changes in his life. “After all, changes were what other people needed, not me.” Student then began mentally listing the things he might have to change. “Why should I have to change my life for repentance? Most everyone I’ve talked with lately are totally confident they are saved just because someone, somewhere, told them they were saved! Often they just recite a few words. And that was it, they believed and they were saved... Tomorrow I will go over these questions with Teacher. He always has the Scriptures I need for my questions. I just don’t want to get caught up in something wrong.”

The week had slowly passed and Student was just sitting down with Teacher. “This has been a very long week Teacher. I have been going over the pros and cons of whether what we are studying here is correct. But others are telling me a different story. With every question I have asked, you have in every case said, ‘Lets see what the Bible has to say about that.’ For all my questions, up till now, you have given me a chapter and the verses to answer each question,” said Student.

“That is correct Student. I also proceeded to ask you to read out loud the passages you found. In this way, you discover the answer for each one of your questions directly from the Word of God... with just a little help from me, in some cases.” The Teacher, looking intently at Student said, “You will have to weigh the knowledge you are receiving against the common perception that is so prevalent in various people of faith these days. Like most I work with, their questions always boil down to: ‘How can so many

people be so wrong?’ or, ‘What about my loved-ones?’ or, ‘How could a loving God do that to His children?’ And then they throw in the thief-on-the-cross incident to prove that anyone, under any circumstance, can make it to heaven.”

“That is right, Teacher. Those are the arguments I am getting as I talk to all my friends, especially the thief on the cross.”

“Ah, yes, the good ‘ole thief,” Teacher sighed. “That is one of the most asked questions: ‘What about the thief on the cross?’ The salvation of the thief that hung on a cross next to Jesus is often cited as an example of someone who was saved without baptism. We have a full study on this subject on our congregation’s website: Hischurchnw.org, if you would like the full study. Why don’t you look it up by clicking ‘DOWNLOADS’ on the homepage, then click on ‘ANSWERED QUESTIONS,’ then pull up ‘Question #2: What about the thief on the cross?’ If you have any questions from there, we’ll go over them.”

“We should, however, be getting on with your study, Student. Do you have any questions ready for today?” asked Teacher.

“Yes, Teacher. The most trouble I am having concerns the idea of repentance. I guess it all boils down to what I am learning about the Gospel. Let’s get back to it.”

“Okay, Student let’s go back to Jesus’ statement in Mark 16, verses 15 and 16.”

Student turned to the passage in his Bible and read aloud: *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.”*

Student then commented: “Yes, what Jesus is saying here is so clear. Also, this squares up with Paul’s statement in 1st Corinthians 9:16: *‘For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.’*”

“Remember the Biblical definition for the gospel we looked at a few weeks back in 1 Corinthians 15?” asked Teacher leaning forward.

“What is this: a quiz?” returned Student.

“Well, I think it’s a little more important than that...”

Student broke in, “I know, just kidding... it’s the death, burial, resurrection, and appearance of Jesus!”

“Good job, Student! Now... most everyone knows we have to believe the gospel in order to be saved, but where does it say we must obey the gospel as well?” pressed Teacher.

“Well I think you got me there, Teacher,” answered Student. “But I do

remember that Romans 6:1-4 tells how to obey the gospel.”

“That’s good, Student, but unless we have the Scripture passage that states that obeying the gospel is essential to salvation, the importance of Romans 6 for salvation is often lost. The passage I’m referring to is found in II Thessalonians 1:6-9.”

Student read from his Bible very slowly and deliberately, trying to soak it all in. *“For after all it is only just for God to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not **obey the gospel** of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power...”*

Student paused briefly. Then looking back through his notes found what he had jotted down during a previous study on Jesus’ words in Mark 16:16:

3. Mark 16:16 #1, Believed --- And He said to them, (1’ Cor 9: 16,). #2 .“Be baptized” ---Obey the Gospel: death, burial, resurrection and appearance. #3” Shall be saved”— Believe the Gospel and obey the Gospel equals salvation.

Student, resting back in his chair, remarked, “Teacher, I am really leaning towards baptism, and would, in my belief, not have to change that much for my repentance.”

“You feel you are that close, uh?” said Teacher.

“Yea, Generally in most other things, it would have been taken care of by now.”

“Before we quit today’s study, let’s go back to your bringing up Romans 6:1-4 as the way to obey the gospel. Most people are taught that this passage is merely symbolic... and in a sense it is. Baptism being immersion in water symbolizes a burial in the physical realm—thank goodness, burying people in the earth could get messy! But in the spiritual realm we are actually *‘buried with Him through baptism’* as verse 4 specifically states. This is how we obey the burial part of the gospel requirement for salvation. Of course, we don’t bury people who are alive, and that’s where repentance comes in. Verse 2 refers to those who have *‘died to sin’* as those who are ready to be *‘baptized into Christ.’* Dying to sin is an excellent practical definition for Biblical repentance. So, the question for you now is, ‘Are you in the process of dying to sin; giving up yourself and all you are, to fully surrender to Jesus?’”

“Wow” was all Student could manage to say.

Teacher broke the silence: “Well Student, you go home and think about this material this coming week, and then come up with all the Biblical reasons why you should be baptized. Then next study, I will look at your list of reasons that you believe make you prepared and qualified to be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:38. Then, if it looks good, I will try to talk you out of it.”

“What!” exclaimed Student fully charged, “What are you talking about? We have been studying the Scriptures, with me feeling like it was your life that was depending on whether I should be baptized or not! Who is doing what for who?”

“Look Student, this will be the most important decision you will ever have to make in your lifetime. This is all about you and your relationship with Christ! It’s not about me; I’m just the messenger.

Calming down, Teacher continued: “Many go ahead with baptism, and then go on living just like they did before. Let’s look back at today’s lesson again. Right in the very middle of Mark 16:15-16, is the phrase ‘*shall be saved.*’ The process of being saved following baptism is contingent with what one does with their life after baptism. In other words, we must all be prepared to obey the gospel, and that includes not only repentance before baptism, but ‘*walking in newness of life*’ the rest of your days. Which, in most cases, becomes the big hang up.”

“Teacher, I am sorry that I became angry with you,” Student responded earnestly. “It is obvious that you are teaching these most important lessons in a manner that in each case would be the only way it can be done correctly, thank you for that.”

“Think nothing about that, Student. However, you now have a few days to look back through our studies which, in most cases, reveal more information than we gather from the first readings.”

“I have got to get going Teacher. Take care. I really appreciate your help.”

“OK, let’s pray...”

After prayer, Teacher hugged Student, then started clearing up the table where they had studied together.

“Anybody home?” Student called out as he came through the front door.

“Guess what Teacher said today, Sweetie? He is going to try to talk me out of baptism when I said I was leaning that way! I did, however, soon realize what he was saying was for my good. I must be prepared to change my thoughts first, which makes for a change of my heart that produces a totally

new way of living! If I am to be baptized by this Teacher, he must be convinced that **I** will carry out **Christ's** commandments as spelled out in the gospel accounts, as well as the entire New Testament, for the rest of my days! Thought for sure he'd gone overboard this time. But then he showed me Jesus' words at the end of Matthew." Pointing to Matthew 28:19-20 of his open Bible, Student read aloud to Sweet Heart the words of Jesus: "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them **to observe all that I commanded you...***"

It was now Sunday again, about a month or so since Student had begun studying with Teacher. After church, Student commented to Sweetie, "I'm going to bring Preacher a copy of the booklet God's Plan for Salvation next week and see what Preacher has to say about baptism. We have been coming here for years now and the only time I can remember any talk at all about baptism being performed is in the summer of every year... and going down to that cold river above town. Brrr!"

The next five days drug on as they had, every since Student first began his Bible studies with Teacher. Day after day Student was going over in his mind what he believed to be the pros and cons of the salvation he was learning about in the Bible. At last the day had arrived, He could barely wait to give Teacher the good news. After some small talk, Student said: "Look Teacher, I have spent most of my time this last week in discussions with Sweetie about repentance and salvation. And, without a doubt, it's always the same answer. Sweetie finally said to me 'Go for it, what can it hurt?' still knowing, of course, she had salvation."

To that, Teacher asked, "What about repentance? We have talked about that several times Student."

"Yes, I understand repentance. I have watched myself gradually change since Sweetie and I began going to the church where Preacher is," said Student. "You have shown me that repentance is an ongoing change, and begins in one's thinking. I believe you also have seen a change in me, haven't you?"

Teacher smiled, looking intently into Student's face: "Well, I guess we've reached the point where we try to talk you out of it".

"Seriously," continued Teacher, "we need to go to Jesus' words in Luke 14: 26-35. Here the Lord shares what I refer to as the 'counting-the-costs' passage."

As the two pored over the statements by Jesus, Student became increasingly aware of the commitment he was endeavoring to make. And Teacher was more excited than ever, as Student considered the Lord's requirements to follow Him. The word "*hate*" that Jesus used in verse twenty-six, concerning His absolute Lordship, received a thorough airing in dialogue and cross-referencing. This was certainly to be expected. Next the phrase "*carry his own cross*" was driven home, as well as the Lord's own admonition to "*calculate the cost.*" Then Jesus' statement concerning the "*terms of peace*" being that "*none of you can be My disciple who does not give up all his own possessions*" led to a necessary short-study on true Biblical stewardship. Lastly, the two disciples considered Jesus' closing statements in Luke 14:34-35, that debunk the notion commonly referred to as "once saved, always saved." Cross-referencing to II Peter 2:20-22 sealed Student's understanding of the issue most securely.

"No, the Lord's not just mincing words here in this counting-the-costs passage," Teacher concluded. "Tell you what, Student. You go home and think over these passages for the next few days. If you are still on, we'll meet about the same time next week at the indoor heated pool downtown. I'll reserve it."

After Student left, Teacher reviewed the course of the study he had just engaged in. His thoughts flowed pointedly: "Student was certainly sincere. And he is really working through the Scriptures on his own faithfully. But he seems almost too gung-ho: Does he really know what he's committing to at this point? Or, am I the one slowing things down too much? The jailer in Acts 16 was baptized after his first study; '*immediately,*' '*that very hour of the night!*'" A slight smile came to Teacher's face as he recalled a couple whom, a few years back, had adamantly pursued baptism and couldn't wait. They were immersed in a small lake above a neighboring city in the middle of the night; their car headlights shown down the boat ramp to illumine the waters where they were buried with Christ. Teacher bowed his head onto the table and prayed: "Father, Give us wisdom...protect and convict Student... may Your will be accomplished..."

Student could hardly control his excitement on his way home, telling himself: "Drive carefully now, don't get into an accident." "I wonder how many people there have been, who had finally made their commitment to be saved next week, as I just did, and were killed that same day in an accident on their way home? Wow! This is worse than a bad dream," he thought as he pulled

into the garage.

“Sweetie, I’m home, and guess what?” Student just stood there in the doorway waiting for Sweetie to ask, “What?” “Ah, you already know! You are invited to my baptism next week. The pool has been reserved for 11 P.M. and there is standing room only... but I think we can squeeze you in.” Sweetie turning back to preparing dinner said, “That’s good news. Now maybe we can think about some of the other things we used to be involved with before this baptism thing came up.”

It was three days until Sunday. Student had decided to bring Preacher a copy of the booklet God’s Plan of Salvation. Just before church began, Student handed the booklet to Preacher and asked, “Will you read it?” “Sure” was his answer.

As usual church was warm and comfortable with a great message. Sweetie and Student were always close to the very last ones to leave; so many to greet and hug. Student was biting his lip to keep from blurting out the good news of his baptism later this week. “Oh well,” he said to himself, “I think we’ll keep it quiet for a short time. There really is no hurry to tell. Preacher might even feel hurt because of the urgency I now feel about baptism being done right away and not waiting for summer.”

Another four days had passed and Student was excited about his baptism that morning. “It’s a good thing I am still working some every day or I would be going nuts waiting for these lessons with Teacher each week,” commented Student to Sweetie.

“How many times have I heard that?” was her reply. “We better get going. You wouldn’t want to be late for your baptism! And you: be sure to drive carefully!”

It was a short drive to the indoor heated pool where Teacher was already dressed and waiting. Student quickly dressed and was ready to get into the water when Teacher said, “Let’s spend some time in the Word and prayer together before we get into the water.” After they were all seated at a round table at poolside Teacher asked if anyone had any questions.

Following several short discussions concerning relatively minor points and details, Teacher said “OK, let’s turn to Acts chapter two. Student, would you read verses thirty-six through thirty-eight?”

Student grinned as he turned to the familiar passage. “Don’t you think we’ve been over this enough already, Teacher?”

Not waiting for a reply, Student started quoting from memory: “Acts 2:38

*Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name **Jesus Christ** for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”*

“Good job!” cried Teacher, who was not totally surprised, but certainly pleased. Noticing the look on Student’s wife’s face, Teacher quipped, “This guy is a real keeper wouldn’t you say, Sweet Heart?”

Beaming, Student proceeded to read the entire passage from his Bible. Teacher then picked up from there. “Note this passage gives the context of Peter’s command in Acts 2:38. Verse thirty-six is the ending or summary statement of Peter’s gospel message starting in verse twenty-two. This is the first time the gospel of Jesus Christ was ever preached. Verse thirty-seven gives the audience’s response: they were convicted that Jesus was the Messiah, and they desperately asked ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’ So Student... what does this say **you** are to do?”

“Well, we are to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus... so let’s get to it!” Student responded somewhat anxiously.

“OK, Student, one more question then we’ll get in the water” answered Teacher. “**Why** are you wanting to be baptized? Or put another way, what do you expect to receive from Jesus at your baptism?”

“The gift of the Holy Spirit!” Student confidently shot back.

Teacher grinned, and after a pause asked: “Anything else, according to Acts 2:38?”

“Oh...right, the forgiveness of sins!” recalled Student, looking at the text before him.”

“Remember it this way,” Teacher continued. “The Spirit of God is Holy, so He cannot and will not dwell in an unclean vessel. So, we go into the water to wash away sin first, by the blood of Christ; only then can we receive the Holy Spirit into our bodies as we come up out of the water- just like Jesus at His baptism.”

Student then added: “The study we had on Jesus’ baptism as an example for us was so important for me. In Luke, we found Jesus praying as He came up out of the water when John baptized Him. And the Father sent the Spirit to Him like a dove. Then, later in Luke, Jesus stated that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”

“Well Student, if there’s nothing else anyone would like to share, I think we’re ready!” Teacher quickly searched the faces of each one gathered ‘round the table, then bowed his head in prayer.

Standing in the water waist-deep, Teacher asked Student to confess Christ before the small company gathered at the edge of the pool. Then Teacher

reminded Student: “When you are going down into the water confess and ask the Lord to forgive your sins, and as you are coming up pray to God for the Holy Spirit. Are you ready?”

“I’m ready, if you are,” said Student.

Teacher then gave a short prayer, asking the Father to cleanse Student of all his sins and give the Holy Spirit to indwell Student in the name of Jesus. Grasping Student’s one hand and supporting Student’s shoulders with his other hand, Teacher pushed him down into the water. Holding Student under, Teacher began waiting for the squeeze of his hand, which would signal Student’s being ready to come up out of the water.

After what seemed to be more than a considerable amount of time, Teacher began thinking: “What’s he doing down there, he should have given me the signal by now... Oh, there it is.” As Teacher lifted Student to the surface a face filled with relief and joy emerged. Student and teacher hugged, and student was asked to pray.

As they waded back to the steps, Teacher looked over at Student and inquired, “You were down there quite a while.”

“Hey Teacher, I had to make sure I had covered all the bases,” Student stated matter-of-factly as he poked Teacher in the side.”

“That’s great Student. You did ask for the Holy Spirit on the way up?” asked Teacher.

“That’s right Teacher. Now I should be ready to roll.”

Dripping wet, Student proceeded to give everyone present a big hug, and especially a long one for Sweet Heart. After a time of rejoicing, and changing into dry clothes, Teacher suggested they close with a short time in the Word. “There are two Scriptures on my heart for you to take with you today, Student, as you begin your new life in Christ. The first Scripture is Acts 2:42.”

As was his practice, Student went to the Scripture and started reading out loud: “*They were continually devoting themselves to the apostle’s teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*”

“Thank you, Student,” Teacher continued. “Note the ‘they’ in this passage refers back to those who obeyed Peter’s directive to be baptized in Acts 2:38, and confirmed by Acts 2:41. These first Christians devoted themselves to these four things: the apostle’s teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayer. And, in following their Biblical example, so should we after we are baptized. In the days to come, Student, we will be examining each of these during our weekly personal Bible study. I call these the ‘Big Four’ that will get you safely to heaven! More on these later.”

“The other Scripture I want you to consider, Student, is I Peter 2:2-3.”
Again, Student found and read the passage: “...*like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.*”

“So, Student, have you tasted the kindness of the Lord?”

As Teacher looked over to Student, he could see that the elderly man was about to start crying. Quickly Teacher continued, “Well, let me ask you this: ‘How often do new babies need milk?’”

Having raised six children, Sweet Heart quickly interjected: “About every two hours.”

“Good job, Sweet Heart!” congratulated Teacher. That’s the standard answer I have received through the years, and my wife agrees! So God is trying to show us how important it is to be in His Word in order to grow in Christ: as the Scripture says “*grow in respect to salvation.*” After a short time of discussion, Teacher asked Student to close with prayer, which he enthusiastically did with his whole heart.

As they stood up and prepared to leave, Teacher shook Student’s hand firmly and said, “Welcome to the family, Student. I should be going and I know you probably need to get back to your work.”

“Right, Teacher. I cannot thank you enough for what you have done for my life.”

Teacher quickly responded with, “Give all credit to the Lord and Savior! And you, you have studied very well and were indeed prepared.”

Then Student asked, “Same time next week for study?” “You bet, or I should say ‘Lord willing.’ The studies to come, in many ways, are more important than the ones we’ve had to get you this far!”

“Thanks again Teacher.”

“Goodbye Student. See you then. I wouldn’t of missed this for the world! Goodbye Sweet Heart. You have a good man there!”

Afterwards Student was waiting in the car while Sweetie shopped for groceries. He was going over every word and move that occurred during the baptism and said to himself, “I hope I did everything the Lord commanded me to do today to receive the Holy Spirit. I don’t feel any difference, but because of faith, I know I have salvation. That’s what it is all about. I asked for the Holy Spirit knowing I would receive Him, just as I was coming up out of the water.”

Sweetie said to Student, as she slid across the car seat, “What in heaven’s name are you talking about now, Student?”

“I’ll explain in a minute,” Student replied as he looked up one more

Scripture. “There it is, Luke 11:13- *‘If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?’* Sweetie, I am assured, by faith in the Word of God, that I have the Holy Spirit. Thank you, Father.”

Student and Sweetie’s conversations had for the last several weeks been nearly consumed with Student’s Bible studies. On the way home, Sweetie said, “That baptism went over good today, now maybe we can give Christmas a little more attention. There’s about twenty days left.”

“That’s right,” Student agreed. “Sorry I have not been more attentive Sweetie. The Bible studies and my work have taken a large amount of time. What’s the plan this year for Christmas? Seems like we have some of our kids and grandkids coming for Christmas dinner.”

“That’s right Student. We have not seen these grandkids since the California wedding. They have other plans, also. Don’t forget the skiing they do here every year and then go on to Dillon.”

The rest of the day passed without a word from Student about his baptism. He was much quieter than Sweetie had noticed since he had begun his Bible studies.

“I’m going to bed now, Sweet Heart. Love you,” said Student. “Thanks for putting up with me these last few weeks. See you in the morning.”

“Love you too, Student. Goodnight.” Then Sweet Heart thought to herself, “Can this be the same guy I started out with this morning?”

Sweet Heart

The next day was Friday with Student working nearby just out of town. Just two more days until Sunday. He had wondered many times if Preacher had taken the time to read the little booklet, God's Plan of Salvation, which Student had given him just before the service last Sunday. That evening, after dinner, Student could hardly contain himself any longer and said, "Sweetie, I have wondered every day since last Sunday if Preacher has read the booklet I gave him last Sunday. He said he would, and I have never known him not do exactly what he had said he would do" said Student.

"If Preacher said he would read the book, you can count on it," was Sweetie's reply. "Did you have any doubt?"

"Well no," Student replied. "But after visiting with some others, I am getting some flack about a full immersion in water baptism not having anything to do with salvation! These same people are saying that water baptism is only a sign to others that one already has received the Holy Spirit. In fact, guess who just told me today I could have been baptized in their church?"

Ringggggggg...

"There's your cell phone Student," said Sweetie. "Better get it"

"Hello" said Student. "I'm sorry who did you say this is?... Oh! Glad you called. Yes, we had planned on being there tomorrow. See you then..." It was one of the folks from church. By this time, Student had forgotten what he and Sweetie had just been talking about.

Sunday was here at last and Student took his regular seat next to Sweetie in the second row, by the aisle. He had learned long ago that the first row was where the volunteers always were seated. This location was close enough to the pulpit for Student to hear every word of the sermon most clearly. Student nearly fell off his chair, when Preacher began his sermon with the words; "I have been amiss..."

Student elbowed Sweetie, while saying to himself, "This guy really gets the picture! I wonder if any one else really even knows what Preacher is talking about here?"

It turned out that Preacher, who always baptized in mid summer down at the local river, also had a facility in town where baptism could be done any time of the year. After the sermon, there were several people that requested baptism at the indoor facility, as it was still wintry cold outside.

A couple of Sundays later Student asked Preacher, “Are some folks being baptized indoors?”

Preacher quickly answered, “Yes, There have been.”

“Thank God for that... good job Preacher! See you next Sunday. Love you folks,” Student commented excitedly.

“Good morning Teacher!” Student called out as he came through the door for his personal Bible study.

“How is it going out there Student? You said you had given Preacher a copy of God’s plan for Salvation. Do you think he read it?” asked Teacher.

“He read it alright! He even started his sermon with the words ‘I have been amiss,’ and during the sermon, Preacher said they would be taking names of those who wanted to be baptized in an indoor facility in the next few days!”

“That’s great Student; praise the Lord!” remarked Teacher.

“Listen to this teacher! I asked Preacher this last Sunday if there were any baptisms recently and he said, ‘Yes, a few.’”

“That’s super! I appreciate your dedication and zeal so much Student. You know the Lord must be smiling right now. Let’s pray...”

“Teacher, I have been thinking about asking Preacher if he could spare the time some evening, to get together, just the three of us, to give him an idea of what I have been learning from the Scriptures with you,” shared Student tentatively.

“Sounds great to me, Student. I understand Preacher keeps very busy with his business, and is always on the run keeping up with whatever it takes for his flock. If it works out for Preacher, I could make it some evening in the next week or so. You see what can be arranged. I’ll be praying for this to happen soon, enjoined Teacher.”

Another Sunday had come and gone. Student had been able set up a time with Preacher on the next Thursday evening at a restaurant close to where Student was living. Upon arrival, Student introduced Teacher to Preacher. There was some small talk and every one had a cup of coffee. At that point, Teacher asked Preacher, “Do you have any questions?”

“No,” Preacher replied flatly.

Then, Teacher excitedly began telling Preacher what Student was learning.

Somehow, seemingly quickly, Teacher began asking Preacher questions as if Preacher were the one in the position of Student! Student just sat there for a long moment, stunned, before taking the side of Preacher who had become very angry and agitated. Preacher had probably never been questioned or doubted about his knowledge of the Scriptures like this before. Teacher, sensing the gravity of the situation at this point, quickly said to Preacher, “Please forgive me, this was supposed to be about Student.”

Preacher quickly accepted the apology, excused himself, and hurriedly left the restaurant.

Stunned, both Student and Teacher sat there in silence. After prayer they parted awkwardly.

The following Sunday when Student came to Preacher before church, he apologized again, “Preacher, please forgive Teacher and me for our behavior during the get together. I had no intention for it to end that way.”

“Yes, but you just sat there like a bump on a log,” replied Preacher.

As he took his seat beside Sweetie, Student quietly remarked, “That hurt.” Student was to hear those same words, again at another time.

The summer passed quickly with more Bible lessons, questions and answers. Student had, for some time, begun to understand that there were other beliefs about how one initially receives the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Student often asked Teacher, “Why is it so difficult for others to see that baptism in water is the only way?”

“By the way Teacher, remember when I mentioned to you that this good friend told me right after my baptism, that he could have arranged to have it done in their church? His statement was, ‘After all, it is only a sign to others that one had already received the Spirit’ somewhere, somehow, before.”

“Yes I do remember, why?”

“Well, this is the same friend who has corrected me once before I received salvation, and once since. Both times, I have mentioned that for one to understand the Old Testament they must first understand the New Testament. I have since made a copy of these Scriptures, like I always do for my records, as this is the best way for me to remember them. Want a copy?” asked Student.

“Sure do,” replied Teacher. Looking over the Scriptures Student had arranged and highlighted, he smiled. “Say, these ought to convince him to concentrate first on Jesus and the New Testament Scriptures. But I see you left out some of the passages we have gone over.”

“Those may be more difficult for some to understand. What we have here,

on this list, cannot be denied,” replied Student. Student’s list looked like this:

Mat 13: 16 -17 #16 (Jesus talking to His disciples) *Blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. #17 For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.*

Luke 10: 23 -24 #23 *Turning to His disciples, He said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things you see, #24 for I say to you, that many prophets and Kings wished to see the things which you see, and did not see them, and to hear the things which you hear, and did not hear them.”*

Act 13: 32 -33 #32 *“And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to our fathers, #33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, **YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.**”*

EPH 3: 1 -5 #1 *For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles #2 for indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God’s Grace which was given to me for you; #3 that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in my brief #4 By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, #4 Which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it now been revealed to His Holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit,*

1 Pet 1: 10 -12 #10 *As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries, #11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. #12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preach the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from the heaven things into which the angels long to look.*

“Good job here, Student,” encouraged Teacher, “especially the statement from 1st Peter.” These Scriptures should make it very clear to anyone that understanding the New Testament is critical to unlocking the Old Testament.

The information shared by these Old Testament prophets of God was beyond man's ability, at that time, to comprehend, although they were being lead by the Spirit of God."

"Here's your copy; I have more. I must find a kind and loving way to share these Scriptures with my friend and others," said Student.

"That's so important, Student! In writing these Scriptures down for your friend, you have expressed your concern and love toward him. This is paramount, whether a person has salvation or not. Love is always the key. As a matter of fact, one of my favorite Bible verses states that we are to 'speak the truth in love.'"

At this point in their study Student changed the subject by asking a question. "Teacher, I have scoured the Scriptures in search of what others call 'a sinner's prayer' or 'asking Jesus into your heart' in order to receive the Holy Spirit. But I have not been able to find any passages that command or give an example of anyone asking Jesus into their heart to be saved. Can we finish out today's study in search of what Scriptures these folks base their beliefs upon?"

"We certainly can Student; however, I am in the same boat as you on this one. I've never been able to find any Scripture supporting this teaching. As a matter of fact, a few years back I had a radio program and challenged my listeners to find any New Testament examples or commands for anyone to recite a 'sinner's prayer.' But we never received a response on this issue. One of the folks in the congregation here has researched the origins of this man-made doctrine; I'll look up a copy for you if you like."

Teacher continued, "The nearest I can figure, there are a couple of Scriptures that are routinely used to support a sinner's prayer for salvation. One or both are usually quoted in tracts that give a stated prayer to recite. Let's take a quick look at them. Then you can go over them this coming week. The first is Romans 10:9-10."

Student eagerly turned to the passage in Romans and read outloud: *'That if you confess with your mouth **Jesus as Lord**, and believe in you heart that **God raised Him** from the dead, you will be save;, for with the heart a person believes, resulting, in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.'*

"Note the New American Standard version you are using ends the passage with the phrase 'resulting in salvation,' which can be taken in the present or future tense. The New International Version ends verse ten with 'are saved,' which clearly indicates the past tense. Even from my limited knowledge of Greek verb structures," Teacher openly admitted, "I have to conclude that the past tense rendering, 'are saved,' is incorrect. But, on a much more

objective level, let's compare Jesus' words in Matthew 7:21-23 with Romans 10: 9-10."

Again, Student quickly turned to the passage called for and began reading the words of Jesus: *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'"*

"Whoa, that's scary!" exclaimed Student.

"I totally agree," responded Teacher earnestly. "And note how Paul's statement in Romans seems to be incongruent, if not contradictory, to Jesus' statement here. Personally, if there is a difference, I'll go with Jesus! For more on this, you might study Paul's conversion as recorded in Acts 9:1-19 and Acts 22:1-16. This coming week why don't you compare the facts regarding how Paul was saved with the current popular rendering of his statements in Romans 10:9-10?"

"There is one more Scripture passage, Student, that is close to being just as confusing and misleading as Rom 10:9-10. Let's see if you can find the similarity between these two. Turn to Ephesians 2:8-9."

Student read slowly and deliberately: *"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast."*

Pondering silently for a few moments, Student concluded; "In both cases, Teacher, there is NO MENTION OF REPENTANCE. In my case, REPENTANCE was the big hold up. I had to think about changing my beliefs and actions. Anyone familiar with me at that time must have had to say; 'Not him, he is too set in his ways... maybe arrogant and cocky also,' to say the least!"

"Well Student, from the very first you were searching. Being in a loving and comfortable environment under the guidance of Preacher, when you read the booklet, God's Plan of Salvation, something obviously clicked. And after making a couple of phone calls, here you are! Do you remember that these Scriptures we just went over are ones that we have covered before you were immersed? Student, their meaning has not changed, but YOU have! In fact, with and through the Holy Spirit you have come a long way, very quickly. What do you say, shall we call it a day?"

"Good idea Teacher. What do you think about our next lesson? Shall I make up a list of all the Scriptures I can find entitled WATER BAPTISM FOR SALVATION?"

“Sounds like a great idea Student; that’s gonna be a big list!”

“Before I go teacher, there is one more thing we need to visit about: Sweetie’s salvation. After all this time, even watching the changes in me and my sharing with her from the Bible, she still believes she is saved. I have always told her I love her, even before those many times you suggested. But, she is still comfortable at her weekly woman’s Bible study at the church, plus attending Preacher’s Sunday school class with me.”

“Well, Student, it really hasn’t been all that long since your commitment to Christ. And, of course, you know that you can’t change anyone or decide their convictions for them; even your wife! But you must be patient, continue to pray, and trust the Holy Spirit to convict her with regards to salvation. And remember: ‘Love never fails.’ I am looking forward to seeing what you find in your study on baptism and salvation next week. We’ll plan to spend some time in prayer for your Sweet Heart also.”

After student had gone, Teacher thought to the Lord: “You know Lord, if Student would have come along thirty years ago, he probably would have made a great evangelist...I mean he’s like a bulldog! Once he gets on something he won’t let go... But of course, you know best.”

A week had passed quickly for Sweetie. As always, she was busy doing things for other people; a Bible study on Fridays, and, of course, church on Sunday, her children and friends near and far were always being comforted by her calls, and often seeing loved-ones and acquaintances when she was out and about shopping. Probably the best thing that had occurred in her life recently was the day that Student had been baptized for his salvation. At the present time, at least, he was not bugging her at all about that subject! However, she was noticing small changes in his behavior toward herself and others. “What’s he up to now?” she would often ask herself.

Student had spent several hours that week listing many Scriptures that proved the NEW TESTAMENT MUST BE UNDERSTOOD before one could truly understand the OLD TESTAMENT. To him it appeared, that through God’s provision, some men of old were able to predict the future, while not understanding what they were saying and writing. This week Student spent his spare time making a list from memory of Scriptures that specifically called for a full immersion in water for salvation. The time was drawing near for his Bible study, when Student and Teacher would look over his list. Then he hoped to spend some time discussing Sweetie’s salvation. Student had wondered many times about Sweetie, since he was baptized. The reoccurring thought kept running through his mind: “Why had she never

given Student's salvation a thought, when he obviously was outside of Christ!"

"Oh well. I better get to that list of Bible passages," Student declared to himself as he entered the spare bedroom that contained his office and sat down at his computer desk. He remembered one of the first Scriptures that Teacher had shared with him when they first started his personal Bible study. Turning to Romans 8:9, Student surveyed the text's two sentences silently then read them aloud: "*However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.*"

Student recalled that Teacher had shared that this verse was the only "air-tight" Biblical definition of a Christian. Simply put, if one had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, then he belonged to Christ, and was thereby truly a Christian. "So," thought Student, "the most important question regarding salvation must be 'When and how does one receive the gift of the Holy Spirit from God?'"

Student immediately typed in bold letters across the top of the screen:

AT WHAT POINT DOES ONE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Now Student, in early stages of his Bible studies, was curious about John the Baptist's connection with Jesus. Why was John the Baptist bringing all these people to the Jordan River and telling them: "*As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire*" found in Matthew 3:11-12?

Student had previously studied historical materials that details the exact method of a wheat harvest in Jesus' days. Back then, they commonly used a tool called a winnowing fork to lift un-threshed wheat into the air, then shook it to let the grain fall to the threshing floor. The grain was carefully picked up and gathered into the barn. The left over chaff was of no value and so was burned with fire.

Student sat back in his chair and pondered, "Could John the Baptist, in spelling-out these details be predicting that Jesus would gather His wheat; the wheat representing His people, into His barn; the barn representing heaven, through the Holy Spirit? And the chaff must represent those who don't make it to heaven, but are thrown into the lake of unquenchable fire described in Revelation 20:15" At this point Student thought, "Now, don't forget what we started to do: I need to concentrate on finding Scriptures that

indicate when and how a person receives the Holy Spirit into his body.” Student realized that he had spent more time than he could afford considering the possibilities of Matthew 3:12-13. “I’ll have to run these ideas by Teacher, when we get a chance,” he quickly concluded. Now Student knew he had to get back to the matter at hand, for which he had initially gone to Matthew, chapter three: the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. He decided Matthew 3:13-17 should be the first Scripture on the list, as it describes how Jesus received the Holy Spirit from His Father in Heaven. Student entered the following:

1) Mat 3: 13-17 *Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. #14 But John tried to prevent Him, saying, “I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?” #15 But Jesus answering said to him, “Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he permitted Him. #16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, #17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”*

Student looked over the passage he had entered once again and reflected; “This is where most people begin getting the picture that Jesus, by any measurement, is the very best teacher and example that ever lived! His every word and all His actions have meaning.” It was evident to Student from the beginning of his Bible studies that Jesus for His own sake did not have to be baptized by John, for He had no sins to be forgiven and He already had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit from conception. “Why then does the Bible give a detailed view of Jesus being baptize by John the Baptist in the Jordan River?” Student repeated to himself over and over.

“I get it now!” Student exclaimed loudly, “John the Baptist was baptizing publicly in water for repentance, forgiveness of sin, and, in the case of Jesus, to receive the Holy Spirit as a prelude or prototype of what was offered by God at Pentecost through the Apostle Peter’s statement in Acts 2:38!”

“Stop right there!” Student reminded himself. “You need to get back to your list of... now where did I leave off? I must stop jumping around like this. I need to keep every thing in chronological order.”

“Good thing Mark 1:9-12 and Luke 3:21-22 will not take up so much time,” Student encouraged himself. “But I have to set the timer.” Then Student

added these next two Scriptures to his list, which also describe Jesus' water baptism and His receiving the Holy Spirit:

2) MARK 1: 9 *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. #10 Immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; # 11 and a voice came out of the heavens: "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."*

3) LUKE 3: 21-22 *Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, #22 and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven," You are My beloved Son, in **You I** am well pleased."*

Student's mind again began to digress: "The Matthew and Mark accounts of Jesus getting baptized are quite different from Luke's description. Matthew and Mark give the perspective of a person standing on the bank of the Jordan River looking on at John and Jesus from a distance. Luke's account is up close and personal, sharing that Jesus was praying as He came up out of the water following His baptism, or as Teacher says 'immersion.'"

"But Luke doesn't share the content of Jesus' prayer. What is Jesus praying about, why is He praying?" Student continued. "Could it be for the Holy Spirit...for Jesus...for Himself? But then again, didn't Jesus have the Holy Spirit from the beginning, at His conception as a human being? I must remember that these three accounts of Jesus' baptism conducted by John, as expressed in Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-11 and Luke 3:21-22, are a visual example for us. Water baptism, as first applied by John the Baptist the forerunner of the Christ and exemplified by Jesus Himself, corresponds to New Testament water baptism. The instructions for water baptism under Jesus' new covenant were spelled out in complete detail for the first time in the sermon preached by Peter on Pentecost following Jesus' death, burial, resurrection, appearance and ascension into Heaven."

At this point Student couldn't help himself, but began reciting his favorite passage, Act 2:38, outloud: "*Peter said to them, '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.**'"*

"Well I did it again!" Student chided himself. "I have to keep on task here! But before I go any further, I'm adding Luke 11:13 to my list. This is Jesus' directive to us, which dovetails perfectly with the example of Jesus asking our heavenly Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit during His baptism. Hey,

‘dovetail’, I like it: not bad for a sheet-metal worker!” Student kidded with himself and the Lord.

“But seriously, this is the exact way that I received the Holy Spirit, according to what is written here in Luke 11:13.” Student then read the passage aloud for himself: *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”* Reading the passage again made Student feel very secure, and gave him great joy.

Student was now thinking, “I have just completed listing the Scriptures concerning the baptism of Jesus. But where do I go from here? My mind is all over the place, like a scatter-gun: there is so much information! This has got to stop! I can do only one Scripture at a time. I better make a list, then look over each Scripture closely to decide the best possible sequence.”

Then Student bowed his head and prayed: “Thank you Lord for the example of your baptism, and the way you have described it in your Word. This is so clear and simple to see. Please help me to find the rest of the Scripture passages concerning how to receive the Holy Spirit today. In Your precious name I pray.”

Next Student started combing the Gospel of John, entering possible Scriptures for his list, as follows:

1) John 1: 25 -34 *They asked him, and said to him, “Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet? #26 John answered them saying, “I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. #27 “It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” #28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. #29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! #30 “This is He on behalf of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than me.’ #31 I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water.” #32 John Testified saying, “I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. #33 I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, ‘He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.’ #34 “I myself have seen, and have testified that this is the Son of God.”*

2) **John 3 :1-7** *Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named*

Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; #2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, "Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with Him." #3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God." #4 Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old?" #5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God #6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit #7 Do not be amazed that I said, 'You must be born again.'

3) John 4:1-3 *Therefore when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John #2 (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), #3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.*

Student, at this point, said to himself; "There is more to John 4:1-3 than most others will admit. Why would Jesus, knowing He had a very short time before the cross, spend this valuable time teaching His disciples the significance of a full water immersion, 'baptism,' if it were not to be used for salvation later after His departure?"

Soon, Student's timer sounded that his time had run out for this study session. "Wow! That went quickly. At this rate, I'll never get this list done in time for my next study with Teacher," remarked Student as he carefully shut the computer down for the day.

As usual, Student's sheet-metal fabrication work took up most of his daylight hours, yet he still had completed much of his preparation for the next lesson with Teacher. The question at hand, AT WHAT POINT WILL ONE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT? seemed so central to salvation. "Tomorrow is Thursday already, I'll give Teacher copies of every thing I've done up to now," Student thought to himself as he retired for the night from his studies.

Part of the morning had gone by, and Sweetie had just dropped off Student, to meet Teacher for their bible study. "Get over here, where's my hug?" Student said to Teacher. At this point, Student was not concerned much with whether Teacher was uncomfortable with this sort of a greeting or not. Student had always told Teacher, 'I love you,' with a big squeeze, and had no plans of ever changing that!

"What do you have for me on that list you have been working on? Is it

completed yet?” asked Teacher.

“What do you mean, is it complete yet? I still have to put food on the table!” Student teased. Here are your copies of the baptism of **Jesus**, as performed by John the Baptist... Oops! Now look at what I have done!” Student reacted as he noticed a couple of small punctuation and spelling errors he’d missed.

“Have you ever completed a writing, checked it out once, maybe twice, and at that point, have proof there is not one mistake that anyone could find on that perfect paper? Then the next day see glaring errors in it?” lamented Student with true concern on his face.

“That’s typical Student,” comforted Teacher. Yes, that happens to me quite often. I’ve come to expect this; I guess it keeps us humble! In this case however, so that you don’t have to do this sheet again, lets just make the corrections right now.”

“Thanks Teacher, I am going to leave you this sheet with all the rest for this study; as you say, it should help to keep me humble. I will make any corrections needed by the next study,” said Student.

As their study progressed, Student brought up his concerns about Sweet Heart’s salvation. “As far as Sweetie is concerned, Student, with her knowing for sure she has been saved somewhere in the distant past, it’s quite possible, like many others, she can not even remember the occasion or date.” consoled Teacher.

“That’s the case for lots of people I’m sure,” continued Student. “But the big give-away for Sweetie is that she has never asked me about my being saved, just as I had never questioned her salvation. We just assumed we were saved.”

Teacher then suggested surveying Matthew 7:21-23.

Student quickly turned to the passage near the end of Jesus’ sermon on the mount. Slowly and deliberately he read aloud: “*Not everyone who says to Me, ‘**Lord, Lord,**’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘**Lord, Lord,** did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles? And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you,’ DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.*”

As Student looked up, Teacher continued. “Most folks have never really stopped and reflected on Jesus’ words here, much less studied them. Also note, a little earlier in His sermon, Jesus said: “*Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is*

narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

“Where’s that found?” Student immediately asked.

“Chapter 7, verses 13 and 14.”

“Wow!” Student proclaimed adamantly. “Wait ‘till I show these to Sweet Heart; these Scriptures will convince her!”

At this Teacher firmly interjected. “Is that showing more love to Sweetie? Haranguing her with the Scriptures will do more harm than good! You need to SHOW her the love of Christ. Right now that means showing her what Christ is doing in You by your example. Jesus loves Sweet Heart more than you ever could, and wants her to come to Him. You need to trust the Lord, being patient, allowing Sweet Heart to be convicted by the changes Christ is making in you. As your wife of sixty-some years, surely she won’t be able to miss what the Lord is accomplishing... if you are truly trusting in Him. And remember *‘Love is patient... Love never fails.’*”

“I sure am trusting our Lord. Teacher, as you have asked me several times, and I assure you now, every one in our family has for a **very** long time been able to say, ‘I love you.’ And that even goes for many outside our immediate family as well. Teacher, it has been close to eleven months since we sealed my salvation with Jesus. And I’ve become more and more concerned for my dearest Sweetie. I am going to ask her if she will begin a Bible study with you very soon. I’ll tell her there’s no need to stop for us to stop going to the church we now attend, nor her other Bible study as you have assured me; hopefully she will not feel any threat in this way.”

“Good idea Student, she could sit in together with us. You know she is welcome anytime! I will pray for you, and her also, of course, for the Lord’s will to be known regarding the timing and details.

Changing the subject, Teacher inquired, “When do you think you’ll be able to complete this current study you are working on with reference to receiving the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit? I’m real curious to see what you come up with. This is a pretty involved topic for a disciple in his first year, to say the least!”

“Probably, by our next study. At least I hope so,” answered Student. “I have some metal work we are about to complete this next week. I should be able to take care of everything, including working on Sweetie. There she is now to pick me up. Thanks for the good job Teacher. See you in a few days.”

On the way home Student asked Sweetie who she had seen while shopping today. It was always Student’s experience that in any given store, Sweetie would have in tow someone she knew. It seemed she always ran into acquaintances or friends, old and new. This time for Sweetie was no

different. An old friend ended up having coffee with her; they talked about Bible study, church, and who knows what else.

At last, with a break in the conversation, Student was able to change the subject when he asked Sweetie: “What would you say if Teacher and I asked you, for my sake, to come to a few of my Bible studies with Teacher?”

Sweet Heart promptly replied, ‘I don’t think so. I’m comfortable with what I am doing now.’”

“Well Sweetie, you know what you mean to me, and how much I love you. I just thought it might give us more time to be together,” Student tried.

To this Sweetie replied, “When we get some of these job contracts completed, there may be more time than we want!”

“Could be,” conceded Student, backing off for the time being. “I have to do a little in the shop before dinner, and then work on finishing a study for next week.”

After dinner, Student went back to his office to review a copy of his last paper, which posed Student’s much asked question: AT WHAT POINT WILL ONE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Now talking to himself, Student explained, “This next text, I might add, is a direct quote taken from Act 2:22-36 and happens to be the very first sermon, preached by the apostle Peter under the new covenant.” Then he proceeded to read the text with much animation:

’ #22 “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know. #23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. #24 “But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power. #25 “For David says to Him, ‘I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN. #26 ‘THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXALTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE; #27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. #28 ‘YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE.’

#29 Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. #30

“And so, because he was a prophet and knew that God HAD SWORN TO HIM AN OATH TO SEAT one of HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, #31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. #32 “This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. #33 “Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God; and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. #34 “For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, #35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET “ #36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ —this Jesus whom you crucified.”

At this juncture of the text, Student asked himself, “I wonder how many people have ever read any of Acts 2:1 through 47? This portion is pure gold! It is the gospel preached; the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, for the first time under the New Testament! Boy, I wish I could have been there.”

“These next two verses; #37 and #38, are the very first instructions found in the New Testament, as spoken by the apostle Peter. They clearly spell out the **only** way one can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Still speaking to himself and the Lord, Student began to recite by memory Acts 2:37-38. *“Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said to them, “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. And even continued through verse 39: “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”*

“There, I did it again! If there is nothing else, in all these studies I have put together to this point, that could make any sense to at least a few, Acts 2:37 and 2:38 should do it!” Student continued rambling: “For a man who, through most of his life never liked to read instructions, or for that matter **hear** them from anyone else, you have come a good distance already, Student! Look at what you have learned from your studies of the Bible; the most detailed instruction book that has ever been printed... I might also add, you sure have been talking to yourself a lot here lately. I wonder if Teacher’s always saying ‘we’ about himself has anything to do with this? ‘Guess we could call it prayer, huh Lord?’”

Leaving his office, Student found Sweet Heart in the kitchen. “I wanted to get my hug and kiss before you went to sleep, Sweetie. I’m also going to need a lunch tomorrow,” said Student.

“Did you get your work done on the Bible study?” she asked.

“Well yes, for today. I’m not rushed so much now, as I keep coming up with more information. Each passage I find always leads to more! Love you Sweet Heart.”

“I love you too. See you tomorrow.”

Student tossed and turned much of the night while wondering the best way to ask Sweetie again if she would come to Student’s next bible study. It had never been his nature to leave anything undone to others. While praying about her salvation yet again, a peace came over Student and he told himself, “Teacher is right, the Lord loves Sweet Heart more than I ever could. Use me Lord to show her **Your** Love.”

As they sat down to breakfast, Student said: “Sweet Heart, You know how much I love you. I can not bear the thought of us being separated throughout eternity. I weep every time at the thought, Sweet Heart. Come with me on Thursday to my next Bible study.”

Somewhat startled, but seeing the sincerity and yearning in Student’s eyes Sweet Heart could not help but say yes. “I’ll be there with you, we can shop later,” she decided without hesitation.

“Thanks Sweet Heart. You cannot, at this time, imagine the hope and contentment you have just given me. I love you so much... Where did you put my lunch?” smiled Student.

“Oh! You men must all be the same; can’t find a thing! You, just a few minutes ago threw your jacket over it... Love you too, Student. Now you have me excited about your Bible study with Teacher tomorrow! Or could this possibly be for some one else? I know how you work things... Love you. Don’t use your cell phone while you’re driving to call Teacher about me coming to Bible study on Thursday!” Sweetie called after him.

“Now where did you get that idea!? See yuh,” shouted Student.

“Brrrrr! It’s going to be cold out there today. Good thing they have temporary heat for the job site today,” Student thought. “After today we have only one more job, and that will not begin for us until Spring. Sweetie may have been right about not taking any more work. There’s not much going on anyway. These phones are handy, but mine too often rings while I am driving. I have got to call teacher and give him the good news... there’s

a spot to park. Where's his number?"

"Hey Teacher. I hope this is an 'OK' time to call. Can I bring another person with me to Bible study on Thursday? ... What do you mean who is it? Isn't there enough coffee and cookies? ... You'll be surprised, you may have even met this person at another time. See you Thursday" Student quickly snapped the phone shut, while getting back on the highway.

Teacher turning to his wife said, "That was Student. Bet he's got Sweet Heart to attend our Bible study! He just asked if he could bring someone with him to our personal Bible study, but wouldn't say who. He sounded pretty happy. Student has really been going through it; we've talked so many times about his concern for her salvation lately. She seems so secure in her salvation, but Student is really worried for her. 'Wonder what he told her to get her to come: better allow for some extra time for prayer and prep for this one!"

Thursday finally arrived. With their shopping done before hand, Student and Sweetie arrived at their Bible study. "Get over here and give me a hug!" said Student as he grabbed Teacher.

"I sort of figured it would be Sweet Heart with you," Teacher grinned, then turned and greeted Sweet Heart.

After sitting down together at a large table, they prayed, and Teacher began: "If you don't mind Student, I think we should change our study today and answer Sweet Heart's questions, if she has any. Possibly we could go over some of the material we have studied these past months."

With a look of relief on her face, Sweet Heart promptly spoke up. "I hope in a couple of weeks I can understand the vision Student has received. I want to figure out what has been driving Student here recently. He has really changed! To say the least, I'm curious... but most of all, pleased."

"That's great to hear," replied Teacher. "We are all different in personality, and come from varying religious backgrounds and teachings. That's why we concentrate on individual, personal Bible study. The Scriptures that connect for you will most probably be different, to some degree, from the one's that convicted Student. For instance, Student had to be slowed down. He kept jumping ahead to future studies but he needed to have an adequate foundation for future growth. When he came to the baptism of Jesus, as described in Matthew 3:13-17, Mark 1:9-12, and Luke 3:21-22 by John the Baptist, he was able to quickly visualize the three accounts, integrate them, and figure out the example projected by Jesus, for us, under the New Testament. From there Student seems to have figured out the full significance of water baptism, or immersion."

At this point Student piped up: “Yeah, I thought to myself, why are we being told to look at what is happening in Jesus’ baptism three different times. If Jesus repeats this teaching, then we need to look carefully for what this water baptism has in store for each of us. It’s been full-speed ahead for me all the way from there!”

“Well,” continued Teacher, “If you don’t have any specific questions at this point Sweet Heart, let’s start with what Jesus has to say about the gospel. Let’s turn to Mark 16:15 to begin with. Sweet Heart, would you do the honors of reading Jesus words aloud for us from your Bible...”

Two weeks of personal Bible study with Teacher had passed when Student asked Preacher, as he and Sweetie were leaving church, “Preacher, why do we have communion only once or twice a year?”

Preacher answered: “If we were to have communion more often, it would become too common, and lose it’s meaning for many folks. That’s interesting that you asked about that, as my wife has asked me that very same question. ”

“See you next Sunday Preacher. Love you guys,” said Student and Sweetie as they gave Preacher a big hug.

“Love you too,” Preacher replied.

As Student opened the car door for Sweet Heart he asked, “Did it seem strange to you Sweetie, that Preacher said his wife had also questioned him about the duration between communions?”

“I’m sorry Student, I was visiting with his wife, and never heard his answer,” said Sweetie. “If you remember all the places we have gone to church, communion is being served at funerals, Good Friday, and Christmas Eve services; at what seems to be the desire of those in charge at that particular time and place. In other words, in many church congregations the timing for communion is evidently left up to whoever is their Preacher, “concluded Sweetie.

On their way home, Student was complimenting Sweetie on her quick grasp of the Scriptures. “Teacher and I are excited about how you are coming along in preparation for your baptism. My Spiritual birthday of one year is coming up on December 4th, which is less than two weeks away.”

“Yes, I know, responded Sweet Heart. If Teacher tells me I am ready after two more Bible studies, we could probably do the baptism, fix my hair again, and do the shopping, all in one trip to town on that Thursday.”

“I was hoping your spiritual birthday would be one year after mine,” continued Student. “Oh well, it will give us another day to celebrate our re-

births, as called for by Jesus, as He explained to Nicodemus in John 3:3 and following.”

Student then recited the passage from memory, for Sweet Heart’s benefit.

“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said to Him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?’ Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”

Student gently elbowed Sweet Heart; “We threw in these verses of John 3: 3-7, Sweetie, because they will give you a perfect answer to those who will ask, ‘Why were you baptized again?’ We must remember, You or I did not make up these verses. Jesus is speaking them face to face to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. If someone wants to discuss the meaning of these verses, one might ask them to look also at Galatians 1:6-8 for distorting the...”

“Student! We’re nearly home! How about putting this off until tomorrow!” interrupted Sweet Heart.

“Fine with me...Is that a promise?” grinned Student.

The next morning at the breakfast table, Student, never able to pass up an opportunity, said to Sweetie: “Remember last evening as we were just getting home, we agreed not to bring up any more lessons out of the Bible until today?”

“Yes, we were visiting about what our answer would be to those who asked, ‘Why were you baptized again?’ We had just looked at John 3:3-7 in which Christ is telling Nicodemus that ‘WE MUST BE BORN AGAIN.’ And then I interrupted you, just as we turned into home, when you began throwing in Gal 1:6-8 for good measure. And I asked if we could wait until this morning to continue this discussion, recounted Sweet Heart.

Before Student could catch his breath, Sweet Heart continued. “I beat you to it this time, Student. I looked up Gal 1:6-8. I’m aware that you know it; probably even have it memorized. In my Bible this section is called a ‘PERVERSION OF THE GOSPEL.’ Here goes, you ready?”

Proud of herself, Sweet Heart started reading before student could reply: *“I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a*

gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you have received, he is to be accursed!"

"Great job Sweetie!" Student cried out. "There are those out there, who may try to turn these verses around, which would be a perfect time for us to arrange a Bible study with them. Oh, how you fill me with joy. I do LOVE you so."

After breakfast Student excused himself, saying, "I have some catching up to do with my studies with Teacher. I'll be in the office for awhile. Maybe the rest of the day."

Seating himself at his desk and collecting his thoughts Student began dialoguing with himself and the Scriptures. "Now, where do I start again in my studies for Teacher? These past weeks, listening to Teacher and Sweetie, took me away from my search of 'AT WHAT POINT DOES ONE RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?' I'm going to have to look back to the last paper I left unfinished. Here it is; Act 2:22-36 where Peter preached to all those present at that time." Scanning the text, he focused on two preliminary verses: "*this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it is impossible for Him to be held in it's power.*" "Then we get into the meat again of Act 2:37-38," he smiled as he surveyed these favorite verses, "which could be two of the most misunderstood, of all the verses in the entire New Testament." Then Student read them out loud, having them almost completely memorized. "*Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' Peter said to them, '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.'*"

Student pondered what Scripture should come next on his list. He turned a few pages in his Bible to Acts 22:16. The verse read: "*Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.*" Student thought, "These words according to the Scriptures were from Paul's personal account of his salvation in his defense given before the Jews. But it doesn't specifically indicate that Paul received the Holy Spirit here. And Teacher will probably ask me why I went all the way from Acts 2 to 22."

"Looks like I passed by the conversion account in Act 8:26-39. Student read over the passage closely to see if it could be included on his list of Scriptures

indicating how and when a person receives the Holy Spirit. *“But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, ‘Get up and go south to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.’ (This is a desert road.) So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, and he was returning and sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, ‘Go up and join this chariot.’ Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, ‘Do you understand what you are reading? And he said, ‘Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?’ And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. Now the passage of Scripture he was reading was this: ‘HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH. IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGEMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.’ The eunuch answered Philip and said, ‘Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of some one else?’ Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him. As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, ‘Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?’ And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all you heart, you may’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing.*

“This is hard on the eyes and back,” said Student. “When I get finished with this study, I’m going to take a break for a couple of days! These verses may not belong right here, but here is where they are going! Actually, this is a great Bible example of a personal Bible study! Say, I’ll have to share this with Teacher, when we have a chance.”

It had been Student’s intention not to spend so much time on his own studies, so that he could help Sweetie prepare for her “being born again, as Jesus would say, *‘of water and the Spirit’*.” He mused; “John 3:5 is so simple and clear: *Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’* How come sincere people often fight the fact that Jesus is referring to water baptism and receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit here?” Student remembered a book Teacher shared a few months earlier with him which included Justin Martyr’s writing on John 3:5. Justin clearly taught that Jesus’ statement in

John 3:5 was about how water baptism saves a person, which most teachers today explain away.

Actually, Sweet Heart was doing quite well and felt she did not need any extra help from Student in her preparation for baptism. Her baptism, immersion into Christ, was scheduled for one week from tomorrow. But she had to convince Teacher that she was adequately prepared for this commitment; the most important decision of her life!

Student had been gone most the day and was telling Sweetie, at the dinner table, that evening, “Teacher is going to give you the good news tomorrow. It’s impossible for me to put into words, the comfort you have given me, knowing that we will be together throughout eternity. Thank you. I love you more each day, Sweet Heart.”

“I love you too, Student. How can so many people be so sure about their salvation, that not one doubt ever comes into their mind? That was where I was at. Yet most of the Scriptures we have gone over with Teacher, and each other the past few weeks, I had never seen or considered!” remarked Sweetie.

“We are so blessed, Sweetie! It took awhile to sort out many things we were doing that did not correspond to what the never-changing Scriptures repeatedly teach.” added Student.

“Are you going to help me with the dishes? I need to go over some of the material we will work on with Teacher tomorrow,” asked Sweet Heart.

“Go ahead, I’ll do them Sweetie,” volunteered Student.

Student and Sweet Heart had already done their weekly shopping and were sitting in the truck, waiting for Teacher to arrive. “You’ll do just fine today Sweetie. There is a lot to learn, but as far as the repentance goes, you have had that figured out for just about all the time we have known each other,” Student encouraged.

“There’s Teacher...He’s got the door open Student. Let’s go get the ‘good news’.”

After they had prayed and settled in for study, Teacher looked over to Student with a sparkle in his eye and said: “Do you think we can talk Sweet Heart out of this?”

“Don’t think so, Teacher,” Student replied. But Sweet Heart, sitting next to him, wasn’t smiling.

“No, seriously,” Teacher began soberly, “You need to count the costs before you decide to surrender your all to Christ and be buried with Him.”

Teacher then asked Sweet Heart to read Jesus’ words in Luke 14:26-35. As

was his practice, Teacher then discussed the word “hate” in verse 26, along with its parallel cross-reference in Matthew 10:37, and how Jesus must be Lord and Master, above everything, for anyone committed to following Him! A lengthy discussion of the phrase “carry his own cross,” as stated in verse 27, then ensued. Finally, each of Jesus’ three illustrations in the passage; building a tower, going to battle, and remaining as salt, were fully examined by the trio.

Student remembered going over this passage with Teacher before he was baptized also. “Wonder if he’ll take us to II Peter 2:22-24 next,” he thought to himself. Sure enough, they reviewed the II Peter text, but not before several other passages were securely settled in Sweet Heart’s mind.

Of course Sweet Heart acknowledged, by the end of the battery of Scriptures examined, that she would follow Jesus at His Word faithfully to the end, no matter what it would take. Teacher was convinced she had necessary faith and conviction to be immersed into Christ. Sweet Heart was ready!

It was good news and the date was set for Dec. 9, 2010. There also was some more good news. Student asked Teacher: “Am I able to do the baptism of Sweetie, with your help?”

“I’m so glad you asked about that Student; Yes! Whenever possible we try to have husbands immerse their wives. After all, you are her spiritual head; responsible to God to be the spiritual leader of your home, by God’s design. It is so wonderful for a husband to baptize his wife into Christ and caringly disciple her the rest of their lives together!” explained Teacher.

“Thank you,” chimed Student and Sweetie in unison.

“We love you Teacher. I don’t know where we would be, if you had not been here for us,” affirmed Student. “My pleasure! See you two at the pool on the 9th. If you have any more questions or need anything before then, don’t hesitate to call,” shared Teacher.

Not only was Sweetie excited, but Student as well, as they pulled into the parking lot at the heated indoor pool. “This is going to be a first for both of us Sweetie; your baptism for salvation, and me with the opportunity to baptize my wife! How many others do we know who have been this fortunate?” Student enthusiastically declared.

“The only other couple I know, would be Teacher and his wife. There are others in the church where Teacher attends that have baptized their wives also, from what I understand,” said Sweet Heart.

“Better hurry, or should I say: You wouldn’t want to be late for you own baptism, would you?” Student quipped cheerfully.

As Sweetie and Student walked into the pool area, they found Teacher already dressed, sitting at a table with His bible opened. For Teacher this was one of the most exciting times during the discipleship process as outlined by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20. It reminded him of the countdown for a Saturn 5 rocket launch that took American astronauts to the moon when he was a kid in high school.

After the hugs, greetings, and a change of clothes, they sat down together with Bibles open. Teacher went into a question-answer session similar to the one Student had also received one year and five days before. Student clearly remembered going over Acts 2:42. Sweet Heart read the Scripture with a clear, strong voice: *“They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*

“These are the four things that the first Christians devoted themselves to after their baptisms, which is an example and directive for us,” Teacher explained. “In your baptism you are committing yourself to these four areas of obedience.”

After all questions were answered from the Scriptures to the satisfaction of all present, Teacher leaned across the table and asked, “Are you ready, Sweet Heart... Student?”

“We sure are Teacher,” they said, seemingly in unison.

At this, Teacher had Student pray. Then all three; Teacher, Student, and Sweet Heart stepped into the pool, while Teacher’s wife and two of his children looked on.

Teacher showed Student how to hold Sweet Heart to lower her down under the water and lift her back up. “Student, you have to hold Sweetie here, and Sweet Heart, you must squeeze his wrist as the signal to be raised up when you are ready. Remember, ask for the forgiveness of your sins as you are going down into the water, and as you are coming up out of the water ask God to give you the Holy Spirit.”

After Teacher prayed, Student pushed Sweet Heart down into her watery grave and waited for her to squeeze his wrist.

As Sweetie broke water, relief and delight shown on her face as Student had never seen before in all their years together. And the same sense of relief and delight was true for Student as well. All three of them laughed, hugged, and gave thanks to the Lord and one another.

After receiving hugs and congratulations from the onlookers, the three changed back into their street clothes. Teacher led a short study focusing on I Peter 2:2. Again Sweet heart was asked to read out loud: *“...like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in*

respect to salvation... ”

Teacher asked: “Sweet Heart, how often do newborn babies need milk?”
“About every two hours,” she responded without hesitation, having had lots of babies to care for through the years.

“Student, what’s the pure milk here in this verse?” Teacher quickly fired to him.

Student confidently responded, smiling: “The Word of Christ, of course.”

“Correct on both counts you two. Now, as Jesus would say: ‘Go and do the same!’” Teacher grinned.

As they were parting, Student called out, “Love you Teacher. Study same time, other place next week?”

“You bet!” the elated Teacher called after them.

Sweet Heart’s ministry towards others in her church and community had been full and large. She thrived on taking care of others, and folks were drawn powerfully to her. Even as a young girl she was known as the neighborhood babysitter, sometimes taking care of whole families. And to Student’s delight, she excelled in cooking and hospitality.

Because of her big heart, as the Holy Spirit took up residence within, she became increasingly aware of the lost condition of the people around her. “How could so many sincere, loving people, especially those who sincerely were trying their best to serve Christ, be missing salvation?” This weighed heavily on her tender heart.

Teacher had shared Jesus’ Words in Matthew 7:14: *“For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* The word “few” used in this verse was cross-referenced to the same word used in 1st Peter 3:20. In this passage “few” is defined as 8 people out of the entire population of the world in Noah’s day! Some demographers estimate that 3 billion people could have been living at that time! Intellectually, Sweet Heart got the picture, but her heart could not, and sorrowed all the more.

In their Bible study three weeks after Sweet Heart’s baptism, Teacher noticed that she looked particularly sullen. Often people are pulled between their allegiances to Christ’s Truth in His Word and personal relationships with beloved family and friends. Jesus spoke plainly concerning this dynamic in Matthew 10:34-37. He said: *“Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to SET A MAN AGAINST HIS AATHER, AND A DAUGHTER AGAINST HER MOTHER, AND A DAUGHTER-IN-LAW AGAINST HER MOTHER-IN-LAW; and A MAN’S ENEMIES WILL BE THE MEMBERS OF HIS*

HOUSEHOLD.” Obviously, these things were weighing heavily on Sweet Heart’s mind and heart.

“Are there any questions today to begin with?” asked Teacher in a deliberately upbeat tone.

Sweet Heart sat at the table, unusually quiet.

Student piped up to fill the silence, “I’ve got lots of questions, as always. But this is Sweet Heart’s study.”

“Well then, let’s look at the conversion of Saul, who later became the great Apostle Paul,” continued Teacher. “I don’t think we have gone over this study with Sweet Heart yet.”

“Sounds good to me!” Student agreed.

“In the book of Acts, Saul’s conversion is shared three different times; Acts 9:1-19, Acts 22:1-16, and Acts 26:12-18. For our study today, let’s look at the account in Acts 22 specifically and then plug in any additional information given in the other two accounts.”

Teacher asked Sweet Heart to read Acts 22:1-16, hoping the Word would perk her up. As she read the passage out loud, her voice did seem to get stronger.

“Thank you. Good job,” encouraged Teacher when she finished.

“Student, would you now read Acts 9:8-11.” Student nodded, then quickly turned in his Bible and read the passage about Saul praying and fasting for three days in Damascus.

“Notice, in these passages there are three distinct possibilities for the time and place in which Saul was saved,” Teacher pointed out. “First, on the road when Jesus spoke to Saul, and identified Himself. Saul responded by saying, *“What shall I do, Lord?”* In calling on Jesus as Lord, many people believe Saul was saved at that point. This would be consistent with Romans 10:10.”

“The second possibility regards Saul’s praying and fasting for three days, as Student just read in the Acts 9 passage. The ‘sinner’s prayer’ folks place Saul’s salvation here for sure, if not earlier on the road. They render the primary verb in Romans 10:10 as being in the future tense.”

“The third possibility for Saul’s salvation regards his baptism. In Acts 22:16 Ananias gives Saul the following directive: *‘Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’*”

Teacher then concluded with the following question: “So where do you think Saul received salvation?”

Student responded quickly, even cheerfully; “At his baptism, of course!”

Sweet Heart’s demeanor had noticeably changed by this point. “I’ve never seen this before! There’s no other way; Saul was saved when his sins were washed away. He was definitely not saved until he was baptized.”

“Glad to hear that you are both in agreement,” Teacher smiled. “When folks pinpoint Saul as being saved on the road, or in prayer before his baptism, I ask: ‘Can a person be saved before his sins are washed away?’ Amazingly, I’ve had several people answer ‘Yes!’”

The discussion moved quickly through several more topics of personal concern to both Student and Sweet Heart before their study time together ended. As always, the Bible provided clear, penetrating answers.

Soon after Sweetie's baptism, she and Student went across the mountains to spend Christmas with family. A few days after returning home Sweetie received a call from a cousin informing her that aunt Emma had passed away in that same city they had just left. Fortunately, Sweetie and Student had a condo to live in at any time they happened to be in that area. While they were there this time they attended a church with a daughter and grand children. A traveling man who was preaching the gospel, at their church, was also preaching at three other locations in the larger cities, scattered in that part of the state each Sunday. [we will call him Evangelist j Student had met and talked with Evangelist over the phone after reading one of His books called, God's Plan of Salvation. At that time Student was advised to call Teacher, which lead to Students & Sweeties being born again.

While returning home Student and Sweetie made plans to go back again for a Grandson's wedding in the middle of Feb. The wedding would be held at the home of his folks. "It seems as if we have been gone a long time Sweetie, I have really been missing church with Preacher and our friends, plus the bible studies with Teacher." said Student. 'Me to Student, but you have to admit you had a great time also, seeing all the relatives, & attending that church with our kids where Evangelist is teaching.' said Sweetie.

'Teacher left a couple of messages to find out how we are doing, I told him we were coming home today & looked forward to a study on our day in town to shop.' said Student. 'Did you hear that Evangelist has been chosen to do the wedding ceremony for the kids?.' said Sweetie. 'No, what a break! That would mean some progress toward the kids salvation has begun.' said Student. 'In the meantime I'm looking forward to Sunday's church with Preacher & our friends.' said Sweetie

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Time was passing quickly for Sweetie and Student, they had been able to attend one Sunday's church which seemed like a family reunion coming back to Preacher and to the ones they had learned to love. Now it was shopping day with a bible study thrown in afterward. "It's only a couple of days until church and then we leave again on Monday for the wedding, what are we going to do with all that food?." said Student. 'We are going to take most of the food with us, it will all be gone long before we come back. Sunday was a great day, with Preacher giving an inspiring message. As usual Student and Sweetie were the last to leave. "So Student, you are leaving for a wedding first thing tomorrow?," said Preacher. 'That's right Preacher, we or I, mean, I need to get right back after next Sunday, we have

a perfect place to stay while over there. We pick up the keys on the way to the city.’ Said Student. ‘Are you ready Student, these two have other places to go.’ Said Sweetie. ‘One more question, Preacher, have there been many more baptisms?, I have not been able to keep track.’ ‘Yes there have been a few since we began, there still are some who are holding out for summer because they prefer the river.’ Said Preacher. ‘Love you folks, give us a hug.’ said Student and Sweetie. ‘Love you too.’ said Preacher.

“We are planning on taking the pickup tomorrow aren’t we Student?, I didn’t care for the condition of the icy roads the last time we came home from there,” said Sweetie. ‘I told Preacher, I had to get right back, awhile ago, but that could change, we are not going to fight that road back like we did with the car the last time, when that truck driver was right on our tail mile after mile, I should have stopped sooner to get out of his way.’ said Student.

The next day the roads were clear, but the snow pack was piled higher with snow on both sides of the highway. They had traveled only a short way from home when elk and deer began to bunch up along the highway “I have never seen so much wild life along this road as we have this morning, what’s going on?” Said Sweetie. ‘In the spring, the edges of the roads have the very first greens growing, which attracts them. I have been told, that recently in the winter, they now bunch up along the highways and homes because they seem to sense it is safer there, what with the threat of wolves, which are wary of coming to close to the highways and homes.’ Said Student. ‘It’s only a short distance to the freeway now.’ Said Sweetie, ‘Yes, I always look forward to the drive from here across the mountains. With the snow covering most of the grazing, we are going to see a bunch of elk today in any area the wind has blown the snow away.’ said Student.

“You sure called that right Student, look at all those elk just at the base of that hill over there, they are packed so thick we can’t see any snow any where close to them.” Said Sweetie. ‘I have never seen so many elk in my life.’ said Student

As Student and Sweetie headed East, the elk herds disappeared from along the highway, but many tracks remained in the deep snow. In all the years they had traveled back and forth, the town of Lincoln has never changed. “It is no different this time.” Sweetie commented, ‘Look at all those motels with pickups and snow cats every where I turn, it seems there is no slow down here in these businesses.’ ‘I have watched several people we know, get rid of those things, and begin thinking more again about their business these past couple of years. We are so fortunate to have had all that stuff when our

kids were young.’ said Student. ‘Well there still seems to be a lot of people here today, who still use them.’ Said Sweetie.

“That pass is coming up soon, I can’t remember one time we were ever held up because of the snow.” said Sweetie. ‘We saw more snow than this, the last time we drove the car over here, this east side of the divide is always sanded.’ said Student. It became very quiet as they continued. Student was thinking about the papers he was preparing for Teacher. There is no way I will get any thing done on them until we get back home early next week. In the meantime Sweetie was thinking about the wedding to be held on Friday. Turning to Student, Sweetie said, “We are going to be able to visit again with Evangelist for a short time at the wedding. And then again at church this Sunday, I have been wondering what this church can be compared to. I have never heard of another individual who is so committed to the visits and the preaching of the gospel, as Evangelist. ‘Ye, he will never change or slow down, I often think of the men who we have known, who some are bidding their time in their ministry, just counting the days until their retirement. I have been unable to find one in all these men we have known, who is not looking forward to that day.’ said Student. ‘We better start looking for that driveway or we will go past it, Oh!, there it is. How about Preacher, did you ever hear him talk about quitting?.’ Said Sweetie. ‘Actually, one time only, I cannot remember the circumstance, He was though, very agitated, with some guy and his wife if I remember correctly, There is however, a great difference between Preacher and all these other guys. Preacher neither expects or accepts any income, other than that from their business, or possible investments.’ said Student.

“I’ll get the gate if you want to drive on into the house, Sweetie, I’m coming in with you, we only have a short time to visit, so lets not make me have to carry you out of there back to the pickup.” said Student. ‘Don’t worry about me, I’m always ready to go before you are, I just want to visit my cousin and ask how they are doing with the kennel and grooming business. Said Sweetie. One hour later Sweetie and Student were on their way into town where they will be staying. ‘That was a nice visit Sweetie.’ said Student. ‘Yes, She’s always so nice.’ said Sweetie.

“We better get the truck unloaded first, I’ll stop by the door and we can unload onto a couple of those carts next to the elevators, you have the garage door opener I hope?” said Student. ‘It’s right here, they want us to move the one car out so we can use that parking space. When we leave, we need to clean off any snow that has fallen on the car before it comes back in.’ said Sweetie. We are so blessed, for this apartment always open for us, can you

push the other cart to the elevator?.' said Student.' 'Sure. But why do we always forget the floor number, is it seven or eight?, I think it is eight.' said Sweetie. 'I could tell before the door was opened, it had to be eight.' said Student.

As Sweetie turned the key and swung open the door, it was evident as it always is, either Sweetie and Student were the last to be there or, the maid had picked up after some others had gone. "Clean bed sheets, Pillow cases and towels, just as we left the place over a o!." laughed Sweetie. 'Have you wondered as I have so many times, just where you and I would be if we had not become husband and wife a short number of years ago?.' said Student. 'No answer, she must be hanging up clothes, I wonder what's for supper?, Hey! Sweetie, what's for supper?.' yelled Student. 'We are eating out tonight, and will be having several cousins we have not seen for over a year, tomorrow or thursday evening, over for dinner.' said Sweetie.

Tuesday and wednesday had passed for Sweetie and Student as they caught up on visits of friends and many relatives. She was now busy making plans and a list of groceries for the thursday's evening meal. "You will have to pick up ,. ry first and then Jack in that order, I have called Jack's nursing home and they will let him go for a couple of hours. Do you remember where Lorraine's house is?.' said Sweetie. 'I know the location, but you better make sure I have the house numbers, I just as soon not have to walk around in any more snow than I need to find her.' said Student.

"I'm going to look at some of those lessons Teacher gave me to study while we are over here," said Student. "This will just about finish our shopping list for tomorrow's dinner. I never mentioned it, but I would like to invite Dave out for breakfast tomorrow morning and then shop for what we need to get for the dinner tomorrow night.' Said Sweetie. If we have a little more time I would like to visit my cousin Donna, remind me to give Her a call some time tomorrow. By the way what's for dinner tomorrow?.' That's a surprise, go do your study.' said Sweetie. 'Sweet Heart, I asked you a question while you were unpacking on Monday and right after we arrived here, have you ever pondered where we would each be if we

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were not husband and wife. You evidently did not hear my question.' Said Student. 'I love you with all my heart Student, No! I did not hear you, we are so blessed, I cannot imagine the two of us not being together for a life time and now eternity, I thank God for your part in this.' said Sweetie. 'Well there are others we need to be thankful for also, how about the former Baptist Preacher who was giving away the little booklet compiled by

Evangelist, word for word right out of the Scriptures, and called **God's Plan of Salvation.**, And then of course Evangelist's directions locating Teacher for me first and then you.' said Student. 'I love you, Sweet Heart, thanks for being my wife, we have a big day tomorrow and you will be worn out by the time the day is through, Good night Sweetheart.' said Student. 'I love you too Student, better get me up a little early, good night.' Said Sweetie.

"We better get up Sweetie, if we are going to meet Dave for breakfast, it has been snowing all night, I sure am glad we have a warm garage to keep the truck in."said Student. 'Did you contact your cousin Donna like you mentioned' said Sweetie. 'Yes I did, she was so surprised and glad to hear we were in town for a couple of days.' said Student. It had been longer that Student wanted to admit since they had seen Donna and Bill. "I told her we would give them a little notice before we came over, which was good for them also.' said Student.

"I'm going to have my regular again Sweetie." Said Student as they pulled into the restaurant. 'You have ordered that so often lately, that they will probably have it on the grille when they see us come in, do you see Dave's pickup,? He is always

a. hereminute or two before we arrive.' said Sweetie. 'There's Dave in his favorite booth, everyone else must be working today.' said Student. 'Fli Son, give us a hug, where's all the others?.' said Sweetie. 'They are all working, I have been getting close to three days a week for another company, bow about you folks' said Dave.' 'Your mom probably told some one over hear that we have a wedding to attend tomorrow at your sister's place.' said Student. 'Yes, we are invited, but because it's on a friday, we just can't take the time off, why did they pick a friday instead of a saturday for the wedding?.' said Dave. 'They wanted a preacher that can not be in town on Saturday to do the ceremony.' said Sweetie.

"What are you folks going to have,?" asked a waiter. When she had left the booth, Sweetie began asking questions concerning all the kids and grandchildren. There were no new names to be added. The food came and soon Dave had to say goodbye, he also was in a hurry. 'I love you Mom, love you Dad, how long are you going to be around?.' said Dave. 'Next monday or tuesday, if possible.' said Student.

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"We better get going also Sweetie, is there any thing else we need to pick up for the dinner tonight?."said Student. 'Not tonight, but I have a list of things to pick up for the wedding reception tomorrow. It's going to be good to see all those folks and grand children again.' said Sweetie. 'I'll drop you off

here and be right in, is there any thing like milk or butter I can pick up?.' said Student. 'Yes, and a little box of pure cream, while you are in that same section.' said Sweetie.

Student had picked up the items Sweetie had asked for and was now looking for her up and down all the isles. "Now what are you doing down here?, I've looked all over where you generally shop in this place." said Student. 'Well you know how they always purposely move things around, to make us search for many items and in the process, they have discovered that we become an impulse buyer, and end up at the cash register with several items that were not in the budget.' said Sweetie. 'Lets get out of here before I load up on that candy.' said Student.

"Brrr, it sure is cold on this side of the mountains, I'm so glad we don't live over here any more." said Sweetie. 'Well there is a little snow on the truck, but not enough to sweep off before we pull into the garage, and I have to go after Jack and Gerry in about three or four hours anyway.' said Student.

'Can we carry these things up, or do you want them on a cart?.' said Sweetie. 'I'll have to bring the cart back down to get it out of the way.' said Student. 'You, would do that for me, wouldn't you Student?. You also need to contact your cousin Donna, we might be able to visit with them some time on Saturday.' said Sweetie. 'There sure is a lot more room with only one cart in this elevator, I'll take it right back down. And then I am going to call Teacher about a couple of things. I'm really looking forward to visiting with Evangelist at the wedding.' said Student. 'You know that He will go back home soon after the wedding and then return back here for Church on Sunday.' said Sweetie. 'How does he do it?, that's a killer schedule, we must keep Evangelist on our long prayer list along with Teacher and Preacher.' said Student. 'I got a lot out of Evangelist's message the last time we were here. He really got into areas that other preachers I have been around, seem to be uncomfortable with teaching. Take salvation for instance, did it ever seem strange to you that Preacher never pushed baptism for salvation until I gave him the little book called **God's Plan of Salvation** and the very next Sunday, He was making preparations and taking names to begin baptizing immediately. I even asked Preacher a couple of times on Sundays if there had been any more baptisms?, and he said there had been a few.' said Student. 'As I remember it Student, baptism became foremost in our minds when we were taught the importance of getting it done just as soon as we could convince Teacher we understood the meaning of

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repentance.’ said Sweetie. ‘Sweetie, I am going to read to you again, right out of the Scriptures in the very first sermon on that day of Pentecost, when the Apostle Peter after preaching to a dubious crowd was asked in verse **Act 2:37** *Now when they heard they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”* [**This was a question directed too!y Peter and the other eleven Apostles j** **[Peter’s only answer to the question in Act 2:37 is I Act 2:38** *Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gfl of the Holy Spirit.* “I have been wondering if preacher is teaching that salvation comes only when one believes & then asks God for salvation, at which time salvation is received. No mention of *baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.* Others then tell me baptism is to be viewed as a public display that one afready has the Holy Spirit. When we get back, I’m going to ask Preacher if we can discuss this in private.” said Student. ‘Logic says, the Holy Spirit’s presence would require no display.’ said Sweetie.

Sweetie had spent most of the afternoon putting together a meal with the aromas of fried chicken, mashed potatoes, home made buns, — where! did she get the corn on the cob in the middle of the winter?. How! about that celery with the cheese and secret other ingredients, that some times gets eaten up before the meal even begins?, and then to say nothing about the apple pie just coming out of the oven, Student was beginning to succumb to all of these smells.

“I know what you are thinking, Student, not one bite until the others arrive!. It’s time to go after. Jack and Gerry, I’ll give them both a call to tell them you are just leaving here.: said Sweetie. ‘Not even one little old piece of white meat, you know how I love you Sweetheart, are you going to make me beg?’ said Student. ‘OK, you earned it, now don’t get the crumbs all over the seats!, drive careful and here’s the address of Gerry’s house.’ said Sweetie. The snow had all melted off the truck. “It sure is nice that Sweetie has all these relative ties thought Student as he pressed the opening button of the large garage door. These new studded snow tires make the icy roads over here, very easy to get around on. I’ll pick up Jack first, hope they have him all ready to go. Sure enough, Jack was waiting in the big dinning room with his hat and coat on. After their hugs and greetings, Student took Jack’s band, they had to walk a ways to the parking lot over some very icy spots, it was a good guess at the time who was holding the

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other up as they considered crawling to the truck. They made it at last as Student helped Jack into his seat belt.

“You knew that we were going to pick up Gerry also?, I know about where she lives, but you might want to tell me where and when to turn before I get there, I really hate sliding through an intersection in this city.” said Student. ‘Your doing just fine, go two more blocks and take a left, and then another left and she is the second or third house from the corner, that’s it there.’ said Jack. ‘I’m going to run in and get Gerry, You stay here, I’ll be right back.’ said Student. ‘Now where is she at?, as Student pressed the door bell for the third time, Hey Gerry, I have all ready picked up Jack, how are you doing, you look great, lets go get something to eat. Dave and Virginia are going to be there also, you have been up there before haven’t you?.’ ‘Slide over for your sister Jack, its pretty weird when I have to come out in the cold to get you two together. Put this belt on Gerry, we’ll be there in just a few moments.’ said Student.

Evidently Gerry was not getting out of the house very often, or even visiting on the phone with her brother Jack. “What are you hearing from your family Jack?.” said Gerry. ‘O, once in a while one of them comes up for a few minutes and makes sure I have every thing I need, my cousin Sweetie and Student have been up a couple of time in the last couple of months, there’s not much else going on around there.’ Said Jack. ‘Here we are afready, lock that door will you Jack. Do either of you need a hand to get over to the elevators?.’ said Student.

“Let me get the door Gerry, you two go on in Jack, I see the food is afready on the table, I need to wash my hands and will be right in.” said Student. ‘It looks like you have a handle on everything, Sweetheart, Lets grab hands around the table, I am so grateful to be able to thank our Heavenly Father for this get together and for the wonderful food and drink He has provided, Father, we are so grateful and we ask for your blessing on this food to our bodies in our beloved savior’s name, Jesus Christ Amen.’ said Student.

The food turned out just as good as everyone around the table knew it would be. “Any one care for some more apple pie?,” said Student. ‘Not me, I could not eat another bite,’ was heard from them all. This group of relatives had not gathered together for quite some time. Not only were they all related, but they had managed to remain the best of friends over a period above eighty years. Student was no stranger to them also, he had farmed for Jack before his marriage to Sweetie. ‘I need to get Jack and Gerry back Sweetheart, kiss them both goodby.’ said Student

The nursing home where Jack was living had set a curfew for his return. Student had been there many times with Sweetie to visit Jack, & always had reminded himself, this is no way to end my days. “Common Jack, we need to get you in there before they find you missing. Hang on to me, we don’t have so far to walk this time.” ‘Well Jack, did you see a lot of your relatives tonight?’ Sure did and had some great food also, all those women in this family! could cook.’ Said Jack. ‘I have to get back out to the truck with Jack’s sister, but I better walk with the two of you nurse, never can tell when I might get back.’ said Student. ‘Love you Jack, hope to see you soon.’ Said Student. ‘See you, thanks again.’ said Jack.

“Gerry, what do you think about Jack?.” said Student as he started the truck. ‘I’m sorry, I don’t have an opportunity see him much unless we both end up at the same place like tonight, we didn’t visit a lot tonight because he was so quite. Others tell me that he is not feeling well at all.’ said Gerry. ‘Gerry, this family has certainly been blessed with that Sweet Heart of mine, she is always the one who manages the time for the little visits, we have with you and Jack, here’s your house, don’t open the door until I get around there. Ok, did you unbuckle your seat belt?, here let me help, remember it’s a little slick Gerry, unlock the house door and I am out of here. Sweetie and I love you Gerry, take care and we will see you soon.’ ‘Thanks Student, we appreciate Sweetie and you so much.’ Said Gerry

Back at the apt, Sweetie and Virginia were just finishing picking up the place, as Student came through the door. “High you two, are we going to get some music from that organ before we go to bed tonight?.” ‘Virginia is just getting ready, she is always so good, any time I ask, she just grabs that paper with the list of songs that Herb gave Her years ago.’ Said Sweetie. ‘That was a great time for Jack and Gerry tonight Sweetie, it seems Gerry has her family there a lot, but Jack has very few visitors.’ Said Student. ‘That’s why we must always make an effort to see them every time we are over here.’ said Sweetie. ‘You would think, as many times as we have sang these songs, one of us would have found the words for each song and made copies. Said Student. ‘It doesn’t matter, I’m just happy to listen to Virginia play, we don’t have to sing if you don’t want to.’ said Sweetie.

“I’m going to bed Sweetie, we are going to have a big day tomorrow, I hope it does not snow some more and blow that hill full of snow drifts. If it does there will be some who will wish they had good snow tires, we might have to go down and bring them up.” Said Student. ‘I wonder if Evangelist is able to make it up there.’ said Sweetie. ‘I’m sure he will.’ said Student. ‘Thanks Virginia, for this place you have made available for’ Sweetie and X, we

love you said Student.

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Friday morning had finally arrived for Sweetie, she had been making plans for the wedding for longer than Student cared to think about. "Rather than you and Virginia fixing some thing for breakfast, Dave and I are going to take you girls out to his and my favorite breakfast spot." said Student.

'That's good news, but you know how we always get tangled up with some one or other, that you or Dave have known for years, we don't have that amount of time today.' said Sweetie. 'We are taking our rig also and can leave any time you choose.' said Student. 'That's great, Dave and I have to get out to the farm today, I could probably catch a ride back to the condo with you and have the suitcase packed by the time he gets there.' said Virginia.

Sweetie had set her sites on being at the wedding early, about an hour before any of the other guests arrival. "I'm hoping Evangelist will be there a little early so we can visit with him a little, before He takes off again for home." said Sweetie. 'We are going to get two birds with one stone, I have a couple of questions two run by Him also.' said Student.

The wedding went off with out a hitch. Sweetie's and Student's grandson had picked a gal He had been going with for close to three years. In all that time, today was the first time they had met Her. "This is going to be a very good match." said Sweetie. 'I hope she has found out by now that she is going to find a small amount of grease under His fingernails, and there will always be a night project close by to fix or put back together.' said Student. "This was a beautiful wedding Sweet Heart, I saw you making a bunch of new friends." said Student. 'You spent a great deal of time with Evangelist, did He tell you He is doing bible studies with many of our people who are here today?.' said Sweetie. 'Yes, he did, also they are going to the church here where He preaches and John and Lucas are attending school classes there also.' said Student. 'Before Evangelist got out of here, I asked Him several of the same questions about how one receives the gift of the Holy Spirit, it seems what we have been running into back home, are the prevalent ideas here also.' said Student.

The next morning the weather had taken a turn for the worse, which did not change a thing. The plan for Student and Sweetie was to stay at the condo, check out the church on Sunday and head for home on Monday. "We ought to call your cousin Donna right away and find out if they are going to be around after lunch." said Sweetie. 'Good idea, where is the address book?.' said Student. 'Hi there Donna, this is Student, your favorite cousin' said

Student. 0! My goodness, where are you ?.' said Donna. 'Well, we are at the condo and thought we might drop over a little after noon if you and Bill are going to be home.' said Student. 'Of course silly, we are going to be home, have you and Sweetie had any thing to eat today?.' 'Yes, maybe a cookie and glass of milk later.' said Student.

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It had been a short time since Student and Sweetie had seen Bill and Donna, "We never have to make a special trip over here, with all the funerals of relatives to attend." said Student. 'This is the first one for your side of the family in a long time, do you remember where we turn off of this street?.' said Sweetie. 'Yes it's right up here on the corner, with all this snow, you might want to wait until some one comes to the door.' said Student. The snow had been removed from the drive way of the garage but not around the house to the front door. Student pressed the door bell several times with no answer, He then walked around the house to make sure they were not outside some where. 'I cant believe they have forgotten we were coming over and either left or fallen asleep, well I guess that's what happens when you get their age.' said Student, as he backed out of the drive way. 'Any where else we need to go, or is it back to the condo?.' said Student. 'I'll beat you in a game of Mexican train just before dinner.' said Sweetie.

Back at the condo, Virginia came in toward the end of the game that Sweetie was going to give Student a lesson in winning. Virginia had for a couple of days earlier been able to stay away from being trapped into playing, but this time could not come up with a good enough excuse. She could not even set the dinner table with the Mexican train parts scattered here and there. "If I let one of you gals win, we probably could eat right after this game, right?" said Student. 'Wrong!, again, we are going to eat any way, try you best.' said Sweetie. Student did try his best, and came up with the usual excuses at the end. Virginia never cared to play again, and Sweetie prepared another one of those delicious dinners again.

"That was a good nights sleep Sweet Heart, what do you think about inviting Virginia to church this afternoon?." said Student. 'They are leaving for the farm right after we eat down town, Dave wants to go to his and your favorite breakfast place again, I really don't care that much for the food there.' said Sweetie. 'Well you have to admit, every time we go there one of us finds some one else there that we have not seen for some time.' said Student. 'You are just as bad as Dave is, I would like to just set down to a meal there, just the four of us, and not have one of you talking across the room with some one else every time.' said Sweetie. 'It's not going to happen, if we get out of

here Monday morning, we probably won't see or hear from them until harvest is over this fall' said Student.

The breakfast went just as Sweetie predicted, the trouble is that in most cases Dave and Student knew many of the same people, and when a new acquaintance for one of them did showed up, it would only be a short time until there would be no strangers there. "Dave & Virginia, thanks so much for the condo, we appreciate it some very much." said Student. 'Like I always say Student, you and Virginia married well.' said Dave. 'Hey you two, Sweetie & I love you so very much.' said Student. 'That's right.' said Sweetie. A reply sounded something like this,gruunt

Back at the condo, Sweetie laid out the clothes for church this evening. "Do you think you can wear these same jeans and shirt, going home tomorrow?". said Sweetie. 'Sure can, I think I am going to vacuum the floor right away, are we going to wash the bedding first thing in the morning, also?.' said Student. 'Well yes, remember how we like coming back to a house and bed, that in most cases has not been used, since the last time we were there?.' said Sweetie. 'Want to get beat again in Mexican train before church?.' said Sweetie. 'Not really, I'm beginning to wonder if that game is some thing we should steer away from, there are times while playing that game I have feelings, towards you and any others I am competeing against, that draw me away from every thing we have recently been learning from the scriptures about love.' said Student 'O come on, one little game is not going to hurt.' Said Sweetie. 'No!, I am going to look at some passages in the bible that I need to go over with Evangelist before He gets out of here this evening.' said Student. 'Your probably right, He has to go clear back to his flock across the divide, and then on home, I wonder what the roads are like between here and there?.' said Sweetie.

When Sweetie and Student entered the church, there was their daughter and grand kids holding places for them, Sweetie had talked over the phone with them a couple of times after the wedding. At that same time Evangelist entered and took His place, as a hush came over the crowd. Student tuning to Sweetie said. "Here is a man with ajob to do and very little time to do it in. 'Do you have your questions written down?, remember, He's out of here like a bolt.' said Sweetie.

After the service, Student went immediately to the door, where He was able to greet many of his new friends. It was only a short time before Evangelist stopped to visit. "Good job, Evangelist, I have a few questions, if you can spare the time." said Student. 'Thanks, yes, how are you and Sweetie doing with Teacher over there?.' said Evangelist. 'We are still going to the same

church with Preacher and have not gone into the one where Teacher is also the Preacher, will that church be divided into what seems to be three individual segments with three different individuals doing part of the teaching and, or preaching.’ said Student. ‘Yes, it is similar in that they have a different man each Sunday teach what is called Stewardship, which is left totally up to each person to prepare for their delivery. Then like here, they have a different man who prepares and delivers a statement which leads up to the communion. I might mention these studies are right out of scripture in all cases with the congregation following along with their bibles.’ said Evangelist. ‘Do you then, and Teacher, and all the rest then give the final message, as you did here tonight?.’ Yes it varies, but remember that, each individual involved is responsible for their message.’ said Evangelist. ‘That’s great said Student, it appears to me, there may be new understandings, with the new faces, each week.’ Said Student.

‘That’s correct, it gives all those who really care to advance, an opportunity to delve even deeper in many cases, than those who are teaching them.’ Said Evangelist. ‘Thanks for taking the time this evening Evangelist, you have one more stop before going home, Sweetie and I are so appreciative of your commitment to get the word out. it certainly is not what we are used to being taught with Preacher.’ said Student.

“That was quite a lesson tonight, Sweetie, you heard most of what Evangelist told me about how each branch of the church were to conduct them selves. If we ever switch over, I certainly would look hard at what they are doing where Teacher is located. I’m not so sure I would be inclined to get up in front of a church when ever some one decided it was my turn.” said Student. ‘Well you probably won’t have to worry about that, you said some time ago, that when we get back, you were going to ask Preacher if you could sit down with Him in private, just to see if we are reading him correctly concerning when one receives the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ said Sweetie. ‘To this point, Preacher seems to follow along with the baptism, to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as defined clearly in **Act 2:38** *Peter said to them, “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.* how many times have I said these words to you Sweetie, is there some thing we do not see some where else?.’ said Student. ‘If there is, maybe Preacher can show us the scriptures He bases his beliefs upon, frankly it does not appear there is a conflict in this case.’ said Sweetie. “We could talk about this until morning, if we are going to do the laundry, we had better get to bed for an early start tomorrow. Good night Sweet Heart, I love you.’ Said

Student. 'Love you too, see you tomorrow.' Said Sweetie.
"Hey Sweet Heart, did you have a good nights rest." said Student. 'Yes, I always do over here, I don't like the cold, but enjoy every thing else except missing Preacher and our friends back home.' said Sweetie. 'If you will do the laundry, I will fix breakfast, what kind of cold cereal do you want.' said Student, with a grin on his face. 'Don't get cute, there's enough work here for both of us, lets get this load of sheets and pillow cases started and off their bed also.' said Sweetie. 'You really make yourself at home, going into their bedroom don't' you.' said Student. 'Any time I can help Virginia pick up after that Dave, do you remember, that one winter when Dave stayed with us here in that place across town and the kids were picking his clothes up off the floor and using them to wipe off their blackboard?.' said Sweetie. 'Yea that was your chance to train him, he was a mess, wasn't he?', said Student. 'Well we all sort of grew up together, that also was the year that you and Dave built those boats. I was ready to tell you it was either him or me' Said Sweetie. 'Don't fret Sweet Heart, you have always known it was you.' said Student.

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"I'll run down and be right back with a cart, one should be enough, the condo looks real good Sweet Heart.' said Student. 'It always makes me feel better if we can leave the place looking neater than when we came in, I have the keys, that's about everything.' said Sweetie.' See you in a few moments.' said Student. Back in the condo' It's a good thing we don't have another suitcase , I can carry this one, did you turn the heat down lower than what they keep it?'. said Student. 'Don't forget we gave the keys to drop off.' said Sweetie. 'We can drop them off at your cousins dog and cat grooming business, lets try to be on the road in about a half an hour from there.'" Said Student. 'Hello there, how's the pet grooming business?.' said Sweetie. It keeps me busy, you know most of these are mine and not for sale.' said Cousin. One could look at the eyes of the dogs that belonged to Cousin, They never left her face unless there was a distraction and then right back to see what Cousin was doing. 'We wanted to visit a little before starting back, so brought the keys in here instead of fighting a possible snow drift out there.' said Sweetie. These two could always find plenty to visit about, Student was trying to catch Sweeties eye to tell her it was time to go. Sweetie knew the routine, as long as she did not turn to where Student could catch her eye, her conversation with cousin could be stretched out for a few more moments. What the heck thought Student, we only get around cousin, maybe once a year. 'I'm ready to start for home, how about you?.' said

Sweetie. 'We need to top off the tank, and I guess that's it.' Said Student. 'See you, the next time around.' Said cousin.

The roads were clear except for some ice where the sun had not touched the road. Both Sweetie and Student were caught up in their own thoughts, it seemed like such a short trip to Lincoln. "There was a lot of snow piled up when we came through here before, it must have dropped a bunch more since then." Said Sweetie. 'Have you noticed how sick the trees are looking on the other end of town, Every where I look they appear to be turning brown and losing their needles, must be the bark beetle, I sure hope we don't see them over home.' Said Student.

"There's some more of that logging going on, I read some where a while back that there would be some cutting right up against the highway in places where there was a danger of falling trees." Said Student. 'Well that's not going to put many people to work,' said Sweetie. 'We should keep an eye out for elk from about here on, there seems to be more wind cleared hill tops than when we came through here before, that's where they will be from here to the cut across.' Said Student. There were several herds spotted, with one very large herd, all on the south side of the highway just before the cut across. 'I'm going to put some more windshield cleaner in, do you want to drive a little?.' said Student. 'Sure, how about some broasted chicken, we need a break any way.' Said Sweetie.

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"That's always a great place to stop for lunch, Sweetie, I'd put their broasted chicken up against any other we have ever eaten, any time, any place. What are we going to have for dinner tonight?." said Student. 'You have had it Student, Do you want me to drive some more?.' said Sweetie. 'Would you?, that would give me a little rest before this big week I have coming up.' said Student. 'What big week?,' said Sweetie 'I will be asking Preacher this Sunday if there is a chance we could set down together in private, so that you and I have a complete understanding from him, as to when and how He received the gift of the Holy Spirit.' said Student. 'Do you think Preacher could work us in within a week or two?' said Sweetie. 'Have you ever heard any one ever say, Preacher was too busy to spend a little private time with them, if given a little notice?.' said Student. 'If you need to take a little nap, I'll be alright until we get up closer to where we saw all those elk before, I'll give you a call and you can drive from there, love you Student' said Sweetie. 'Not as much as I do. 'Said Student. 0,0! Love you to.' said Student.

"Student, you better take it from here, I just saw a couple of elk up close to a house along the highway." said Sweetie. "Thanks for taking a turn, that was

just what I needed. You really got quite a ways towards home.’ said Student. It was less than another twenty minutes before they arrived home. The truck was soon unloaded and moved to make room for the car.

“How does it feel to be home again.” said Student. ‘It is always good to be home, but I was hoping we could stay over there for another four or five days.’ said Sweetie ‘If we had, and then found out that we couldn’t make it home because of the roads.’ said Student. ‘When has that ever stopped us Student?, can either one of us ever recall one time the weather stopped us from going any where, any time?.’ Said Sweetie. ‘I really need to take care of some lessons I did not get to while we were gone, it will be Sunday before we know it, and if I am correct, this is the monthly bible study, I hope it is not here.’ said Student. ‘It’s not here, we are down the line about five months if I were to look the dates up.’ said Sweetie. ‘Are you going to bed pretty soon, I better give you a kiss before I get into the office, Sweet Heart, I will also be calling Teacher this evening, anything you care to visit with him about.? Said Student. ‘I can’t think of any thing, just tell him how much we missed seeing him last week, and we are looking forward to the study time this week.’ Said Sweetie.

“Hi there Teacher, this is Student, Sweetie and I just got back from the wedding, she asked me to tell you hello.” said Student. ‘Did you get a chance to visit Evangelist at all.’ Said Teacher. ‘Yes we did, twice, did I tell you he did the wedding for our grandson, and then came back over for church, where He spent a good deal of time with Sweetie and me afterwards. He reminds me so much of you, I just needed to let you know we are back, I’ll call tomorrow.’ said Student.

“Good morning Sweet Heart, did you sleep well last night?.” Said Student. “Yes, even as much as I like to travel, it’s always good to get back, I’m going to try to get set up for a day or two early for my hair do, it’s grown so much while we were gone.’ said Sweetie. ‘Your hair still looks great to me, you probably could go several more days, lets see if we can work it for the same day we shop and visit with Teacher’ said Student. ‘I’ll give that a try and let you know in a few minutes.’ said Sweetie.’ I’m going to call Teacher right now, talk to you later.’ said Student,

“High there Teacher, this is Student, I figured you might want an update on our time with Evangelist last week.” Said Student. ‘You told me last evening that He was able to spend some time with you and Sweetie right after church.’ said Teacher. “Sweetie and I were curious after attending church there a couple of times, and seeing at both occasions a different man coming from the congregation to give a short talk which they called Stewardship,

read from his notes right out of the bible.’ said Student. ‘That’s correct, then what did they do.’ said Teacher. ‘At that time another man came out of the congregation and taught right out of the bible, a short lesson about the importance of communion, at which time communion was served.’ said Student. ‘Keep going, Student.’ said Teacher. ‘Then Evangelist approached the lecture, keeping it behind himself so we could watch his every move, with his bible in hand or under and arm, he quoted word for word the scriptures. Remember last night, I told you He reminded me so much of you, every time I ever asked you a question, you answered without fail, lets see what the bible says about that?.’ said Student. ‘That’s right Student, I have another call coming in, can we talk more about this on Thursday?, if that works out for you and Sweetie.’ said Teacher. ‘One of us will let you know.’ said Student.

“Sweet Heart, I’m going out to shovel that snow away from the car, and side walks, this sure is not like we had it all last week with, that heated garage right under the condo. Did you contact your hair person?.” Said Student.

‘Yes, thursday will be fine with Him.’ said Sweetie.

“Wow!, this slave labor, moving snow is becoming more of a pain than I could have imagined a couple of years ago. You might want to be careful when you go through that side door Sweetie, if it is melting at all the snow will slide down over the gutter and any vibration will send it in large chunks right down on top of you. There seems to be no end to the chores connected to being what I now call semiretired, what’s for dinner?.” said Student, with that same twinkle that Sweetie so often saw in his eyes ‘How do you like it?, I’m here cooking and cleaning every day, even on those few days you guys are off doing your work. You better get cleaned up for super, are you going to be surprised?, this is one of your favorites’ said Sweetie. ‘They are all my favorites, and nothing surprises me any more about you Sweet Heart. Your salvation has given me complete’omfort.’ said Student.

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It was turning out to be a very long week for Student and Sweetie, sure they had spent a whole day in town with Sweetie’s hair appointment, shopping and a short time with Teacher. Now it was Saturday evening and Sweetie was putting together a cake to be eaten at bible *study* after church tomorrow. “You probably want me to have some of that cake to make sure it’s alright for every one else tomorrow?.” Said Student. ‘Sure, we’re going to cut it in half as soon as it cools a little, and then if any of that is left tonight, we’ll take it with us tomorrow.’ said Sweetie, while looking at Student for his reaction. ‘Sure, I’ll be lucky if I get to lick the bowl, I’ll probably be in the

office until bedtime, yell if you need any thing.’ said Student. ‘I’m sure looking forward to church and bible study tomorrow, I have missed these friends and Preacher so much.’ said Sweetie. ‘Me to Sweetheart.’ said Student.

Sunday dawned with a light amount of snow falling. Sweetie and Student had about four miles to go for church. “We sure can tell we are back to God’s country, that snow I have to clean off the car or truck every time we need one or the other, would in some cases, make me consider moving back across the mountains, if it were not for Teacher and what we are discovering, with His directions, what the Scriptures are actually about.” said Student. ‘I can’t imagine leaving Preacher and our very best friends. ‘Said Sweetie. ‘Lets not think that far ahead Sweetheart, I’m going to get a chance over at bible study, to ask Preacher for an evening at His house some time this week, at which time I’ll be asking him several questions in which there will be not difficulty in Preacher giving us His answers.’ said Student.

As Student and Sweetie entered church, nothing had changed even though it seemed they had been gone for a very long time, instead of only a week. Their two seats, second row, and on the isle, had not been occupied. They were still greeting old friends they had not seen for a whole week, when Preacher began the service. Turning to Sweetie soon, Student gave her a little elbow and whispered,” Lots of difference from last week, right?.” said Student. ‘sssh!, better keep it until after we leave.’ said Sweetie. Usually, except on bible study Sundays, Sweetie and Student were the last to leave the church. On days of bible Study, she generally wanted to be first or second at the home where the study was to be, in some cases to get a hot dish into an oven. ‘Lets get over there, I would rather not walk through some deep snow if you don’t mind.’ said Sweetie.

Bible study today was just down the road a short distance. The food was excellent and Student was making sure all the guys got a least one piece of Sweetie’s cake. “I’m not sure why I am telling you guys this, this cake was made by Sweetie and she wouldn’t even let me near it last night, every one should get a piece of cake like this at least once in their lives, of course if there is any left, I’ll be thinking about you as I eat it at home in the next day or so.” said Student.

Everyone in the room soon made a semi-circle with their chairs, Preacher was sitting in front of them & ready to begin. Student was letting his mind wander to questions he was going to ask Preacher for a get together in the next day or so. I better get back to this lesson, I haven’t even had a chance to ask Preacher for an evening with them, 0 well, if not this week I’ll try for the

next. “Wow, it sure is warm in here, I hope some of these other guys don’t fall asleep, I better keep an eye on them.” said Student, with an elbow gently to Sweetie’s ribs ‘You better watch out for yourself, It’s apparent to me your mind is not totally with the lesson today, you normally don’t want to miss a word.’ said Sweetie.

The study did seem to take more time than usual. It now was over and Student was waiting for his turn to visit with Preacher. Sweetie had taken the cake dish and was waiting for Student to visit with Preacher. In what seemed like a long time to Student, he finally asked Preacher the big question. “That was a good message Preacher, if you saw me blink, it was because it was really hot in here today. I have for a short time been wanting to sit with you for a while, to answer a couple of questions that have come up in our life.” said Student. ‘We can do that, would you care to come over, say tomorrow evening or tuesday?,’ said Preacher. ‘How about eight, tomorrow night?.’ said Student. ‘We’ll see you then.’ said Preacher. ‘Thanks Preacher, we love you folks.’ said Student. ‘Love you to.’ said Preacher.

Back in the car, Student said. “I should have come out here and warmed this car up, I was afraid if I left for a little bit, Preacher might have taken off and I would have missed setting up a time with Him.” ‘Then you did set up a time?.’ said Sweetie. ‘Sure did, tomorrow evening at eight, I was uneasy while asking Him for some of His time, even though he’s aware we are doing some extra bible studies, He never once questioned what this get together is all about, that could have ruined the plan concerning the big question.’ said Student. ‘I sure hope and pray we hear the correct answer’ said Sweetie. ‘Me too, I’m going to put tomorrow out of my mind and read some thing else tonight. I think I’ll run over to the lake job tomorrow just to get my mind off tomorrow night.’ said Student. ‘Are you going to need a lunch?.’ said Sweetie. ‘No, I won’t be gone long, I just want to check in for an idea about when we can start up the system and make sure the house will be cleaned up before then.’ said Student. ‘If you don’t need me for any thing else, I’m going to bed and read for a while, love you Student.’ said Sweetie. ‘I love you, Sweetheart, see you tomorrow.’ said Student.

Student had gotten an early start, he wanted to be there before the others so as not to get tied up in other people’s work. He might even get out of there before any of the other workers arrived. The house was cleaned up and the heat could be turned on in a day or so. I should have waited until later today and would have

probably gotten a phone call to come up Thursday He thought. O well I needed to get away for a while today to make sure I knew the questions that

I was going to ask Preacher tonight.

Student had started the pickup and was preparing to enter a very narrow section of the road which was also quite steep when the first of two vans came into view, I should have waited for them to get here before I started for home, with this snow on the road they will not be able to get started again if they are stopped, and it's nearly impossible for them to back up. Student turned around and followed them back to the site. By this time the contractor had approached as Student was rolling down the window. "Hi there Conn, looks like in a couple of days & we can start up the heating and cooling system, you sure do have it looking great around here." said Student.

'There's a little bit of work left on the stairs and around the fire place and the carpet layer's supplier sent out a roll that doesn't match.'" said Conn.

'Conn, I'm going to have to leave, when your ready to turn this house over to the owners, give us a call and we will balance the air system for the completion.' said Student. 'See you.' said Conn. 'Thanks for the work Conn, we appreciate it a lot.' said Student.

Back at the shop' Student went about making some sheet metal fittings for a small project , a home owner was doing for himself. I sure hope these ideas and measurements are correct, he thought. I better give him a call to pick them up right after lunch if he can, I need to get my study with Preacher started right after that. "Hello, this is Student, I'll have those metal fittings ready right after lunch, give me a call if I am not in the shop." Said Student. 'That will work out fine, I have some other shopping that can wait, I'll see you soon.'

Student was now in his office going over questions about salvation. I need to ask Preacher at what time in his life He had received the Holy Spirit, and what He had done, to receive Him. Also what was written in the scriptures, proving to Preacher that he had the Holy Spirit?. Preacher's answers to these questions will give me all the proof I need. I pray they will not turn out to be the same answers I have been getting from practically all of these other folks I have asked that question. I had better make a note covering all these questions.

"Student there's a man here to pick up some fittings you made for him." said Sweetie. OK, I'll be right back Sweetie. 'Hello good to see you again Jack.' said Student. 'Got them done?, these look good, how is your work going?.' said Jack. 'It's slowing down for us at a good time, we have been considering selling every thing with an agreement that I can have a key to get into any shop, any time which had purchase these tools.' said Student. 'What about your service work?.' said Jack. 'We have two business friends, that have been doing our service work.' said Student. 'Good, thanks for

doing the fittings.’ said Jack ‘Thank you.’ said Student.

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Student then decided to clean the shop, there was enough time to make the notes he would need for Preacher this evening, I had better call Sweetie, she’ll be expecting me back in and will be worried. “Sweet Heart, I’m going to clean up a bit out here and won’t be in until about dinner time.” said Student. OK, just so I know.” said Sweetie.

As Student started to pick up scrap pieces of metal, he began to reminisce, how many times have I done this in my life?. Looking back at the circumstances which allowed Sweetie and Student to begin a sheet metal and heating business from scratch, in a large town on the other side of the mountains?, that should never have worked!. Here’s that ninety two year old, fifteen hundred pound sheet metal break that Dave and I dropped while loading it onto the truck, after paying one hundred dollars for it. Didn’t seem to hurt you. We sold you for two thousand dollars 3 three years later and bought you back again for sixteen hundred dollars nineteen years ago, and here ‘we re aa sit.

If it had not hailed that first summer, we would have been gone!. As it turned out, Student and Sweetie began a new roofing business, right after the hail storm, that damaged many of the hot tar roofs in town. Student had no experience in that sort of roofing and no equipment. He did however soon have contracts on eight roofs. ‘Sweetie, we have all of these roof jobs and no hot tar roofing kettle, I made a call to Russ in Shelby and he said there is a motel owner in Shelby that repairs his own roofs. I gave this man a call today and made a deal with him, it will cost us twenty five dollars each day we use his kettle, we can keep it here & bring it back when the work is completed. Student paid for two more days of use after he had complete all the roof repairs, Student had learned long ago that he could copy any thing he was able to look at or visualize. Student built the first hot tar kettle they owned and mounted it on a front axle of an old pick up, with lights even. The roofing and sheet metal business continued to grow, but was closed down twenty nine years later when Student and Sweetie decided to live in California.

After ten years away, one evening a Son back in their home state gave Student a phone call. “Dad I don’t know what you are doing out there, I have been working on a big project here across the mountains and thought you might want to come back and do some ornamental copper work or maybe another heating and cooling business. They are just bringing natural gas into most of this valley.” He said. ‘That’s a great idea, I’ll run that by your

mother, she may be hard though to jar loose from here.” said Student. ‘Dad we hope to see you soon, I’ve to get off the phone Dad, hope to see you soon, Love you Dad.’ ‘Thanks Son, Love you too.’ said Student. There’s the phone from Sweetie. “I’ll be there in a couple of minutes, I’m just about through with cleaning this shop, hopefully for the last time.” said Student.

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“Hi Sweet Heart, I’ve got the shop looking pretty good. Can you believe?, I did a lot of reminiscing out there, mostly about that old break. I remember years ago, when the fist business began, you would come to the shop with the kids to work the other end of the break, do you remember that?.” said Student. ‘There were not that many times where we did that together, I have often wondered if my helping you in the shop, was a pioy in which you were able to say, we had a night out of the house together?.’”I can’t believe you just said that, how many times have I heard you say?, ‘You never take me any where!,’ said Student. ‘You!, bad better get washed for dinner, smart-y, I’m sure there are things to be done before we go over to Preacher’s house tonight.’ said Sweetie.

Student was mentally going over his list of questions he had prepared to asked Preacher, as he and Sweetie drove into their drive way. “This is it Sweet Heart, we might not have all the answers tonight, but will very soon, does it look slick on your side?,” said Student. ‘You’d better come around just in case.’ said Sweetie.

“Hello there you two,” said Student Sweetie was busy giving hugs to Preacher and His wife. ‘Come on in, how about a cup of coffee, we can sit at the table.’ said Preacher. ‘Thanks for the time tonight, Preacher, I have been spending quite a bit of time recently in the scriptures with Teacher. It soon became apparent to me that I had for years believe that I had salvation, until I read a copy of that book called **God’s plan of Salvation**, The same one I gave you. Certainly, I had several times repeated words inviting Jesus into my heart and assuming at each time **I had** received the Holy Spirit, some where along those times.’ said Student.

“What’s your question tonight Student?.” said Preacher. ‘I have several, all dealing with one’s receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. At this time I would rather not discuss any difference in your beliefs as compared to mine, later if there are any, of course we must talk about them, after all, it is about salvation, we each wouldn’t want the other to not be save, would we.?’ said Student. ‘Lets hear the first question, Student.’ said Preacher. ‘How old were you when you received the gift of the Holy Spirit?, said Student. ‘I was in

my early teens and it happened while I was with a group of others.’ said Preacher. ‘Were you asked to repeat words, that invited Jesus into your heart?’ said Student. ‘Yes.’ said Preacher. ‘Can you give me a scripture, that beyond a doubt, guarantee’s your salvation?, said Student. ‘Yes **RomIO: 9-10**’ said Preacher. ‘Mind if we take a look at that, lets see, I’ll read if you don’t mind. #9 *That fyou confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; #10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*’ said Student. ‘Any thing else.’ said Preacher. ‘Yes, We really want to thank you folks for your time given here tonight,’ said Student. ‘See you Sunday, thanks for the time and

coffee.’ said Sweetie. ‘We hope this information will be of some help to you, are you two going to be airight getting out to the truck.’ said Preacher. ‘Sure, we will be fine, thanks again, see you next Sunday.’ said Student. “Did you get what you expected, why didn’t you ask Preacher about baptism?, I would have guessed He expected you to.” said Sweetie. ‘If I had asked him about water baptism, I was afraid He would have come up with that same answer as I have heard from so many others recently.’ said Student. ‘You mean that baptism in water is a sign only, to be viewed by others, showing them that you already have the Holy Spirit.’ said Sweetie. ‘Correct, and very good, I’m sure we will not be able to attend Preachers services much longer unless we begin taking communion at home, or otherwise go into where Teacher Preaches.’ said Student. ‘We would need to give that quite a bit of consideration, I don’t want to leave all my friends.’ said Sweetie. ‘The place looks just as it did when we left it a couple of hours ago. When I get into the house I’m going to look up a couple of scriptures teacher gave me a while back.’ said Student.. ‘I’ll be in the office Sweetie.” Now is that in Pet or 2 Pet?, here it is in 2’ Pet. this was written by the Apostle Peter about the Apostle Paul, seems to me there may have been some hard feelings on Peter’s part. I can see in many of Paul’s letters, particularly **1St Cor.**, a reader could misunderstand his writings. ‘Hey, come here Sweetie, I found some scripture that Teacher showed me several months ago. I’m going to write them down and probably use them in some kind of discussion with people who don’t understand the significance of understanding baptism.’ said Student.

2”” Pet 3: 15 *And regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, #16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as*

they do also the rest of the scriptures, to their own destruction. #17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness #18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. “Sweetheart, I have shown these scriptures to a couple of other people, They just seem to go right over there heads, also In **Rom 10:9 -10** written by Paul, I find these two scriptures to be confusing and lacking, It has always been evident to some students of the bible that Saul, now Paul with his former educated back ground, could have been totally specific about salvation. Of course he might have supposed that the first twelve apostles had taken care of that on the day of Pentecost, many years before Paul had come onto the scene.’ said Student.

I am going to bed now Sweetheart, with all that was said tonight at Preacher’s, and the chance of selling the shop tools, I probably won’t get a lot of sleep.’ said Student. ‘I love you Student’ said Sweetie. ‘Love you to Sweet Heart.’ said Student.

“You must have gotten a good rest last night Student, I know you have a lot on your mind.” said Sweetie. ‘Yes I did, I’m waiting for some one to come in and surprise me with a question like, are these sheet metal tools for sale?.’ said Student. ‘Never can tell, have you ever indicated, they are for sale?.’ Said Sweetie. ‘No, I’ve hardly even thought about it up to a day or so ago.’ Said Student. ‘I’ve got to call Teacher about last night.’ said Student.

“Hi, Teacher, Student here, I thought you would be interested in what went on during Sweetie’s and my visit with Preacher and his wife last evening.” said Student. ‘Yes, how did that go?.’ said Teacher. ‘Quite well, however my greatest fears, or, this could be the greatest blessing, Preacher told us last evening, that he has had the Holy Spirit since he was a lad. I then asked Preacher, the exact, written Scriptures that would verify His salvation, His answer was, ‘Rom 10: 9-10.’ ‘We were gone in less than an hour after that, Sweetie and I will tell you about the rest when we come in to shop on Thursday.’ said Student. ‘ See you then.’ said Teacher.

Sweetie and Student had finished all of their shopping for the next week and were just walking into Teacher’s church. “Good morning Teacher.” said Student and Sweetie in unison. ‘Good morning to you to, sounds like you had a producttve evening with P\$eacher and his wife?.’ Said Teacher. ‘That’s correct, I had decided before hand, that under no circumstance, would we say any thing that would make two of our best friends disturbed or angry.’ said Student. ‘What did you get out of all this Sweetie?.’ said

Teacher. 'I would have to say, Preacher's answer to Students question, as to what written biblical truths He based His salvation on, being Rom 10: 9-10, I know Student and I held out hope against hope, that Rom 10:9-10, would not be Preacher's answer to Student's question.' said Sweetie.' 'The nearest we came to any controversy, and I am not sure how these statements came up, but Preacher must have felt some threat when He told me.' said Student. 'If I let you preach, everyone attending would be gone in four weeks, if my wife were preaching, they would all be gone in three weeks. said Student. 'Looks like Preacher is going along with the same scriptures that we have been hearing from others.' said Teacher.' You have known this to be a fact all along, haven't you Teacher?.' Said Student. 'Yes, but in your case it was better for others to convince you of this.' Said Teacher. 'You have laid a lot of ground work, a good work study for the both of you at this time would be **John 4:35-38.**' said Teacher. 'We have to be going, I have a lot to do yet today.' said Sweetie.' See

you two later.' said Teacher. 'Thanks Teacher, see you soon.' said Student. While driving home Student said, "Would you mind looking up **John 4:35 - 38**

in the Scriptures, so we can see why Teacher gave them to us at this time?." 'Here they are, they are all about the harvest.' said Sweetie. 'Well that old fox, that Teacher, these passages go right along with what we experienced with Preacher the other night, We both came away from Preacher's house a little down and wondering where we go from here with Preacher.' said Student. 'I don't get what you are talking about.' said Sweetie. 'What Teacher is telling us, is the harvest is everywhere, said Student. 'I get it, these verses even say one like you or me could play even a very small part in one's salvation and still be counted as entering into their labor,' said Sweetie. 'Good job!, Sweet Heart, you have got it, that is the exact reason we must never overlook any one that could be the one that just might need a word of encouragement or a reenforcement to look at where they stand concerning that old question I used to ask, 'Do you have salvation, can you tell others the exact moment you received the Holy Spirit and where would one find the written proof in the Scriptures for your beliefs.' said Student. 'I don't want to change the subject, but want you to give me an idea of what sounds good for dinner this evening?.' said Sweetie. 'That's up to you, I'll help you carry in the groceries if you unlock the door, then I'm going into the office until Dinner, call me when it's ready.' said Student. 'Well you certainly are no help when it comes to giving me an idea for a meal.' said Sweetie.

“These passages that Teacher gave us to study are just what I needed to jack me up after our visit with Preacher and His wife. According to **John 4:35 - 38** Any one, any where, any time can be involved in another’s salvation. I’m going to begin our written lesson and when it is finished, take the rest of the day off.” said Student to himself, lets see now again, it’s **John 4: 35-38**. #35 *“Do you not say, ‘there are four months, and then comes the harvest?’ Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, they are white for the harvest. [Jesus is telling you and me that the time for our work is now, not on tomorrow, a week from now or four months. NOW!.] #36 “Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal; so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. #37 “For in this case the saying is true, one sows and another reaps. ‘ #38 “I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored and you have entered into your labor.”* “Sweetheart, I just made a copy of **John 4: 35-38**, the message here reminds me so much of **1 Cor 9:16- 17 #16 For I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. #17 For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me. [Again, Jesus is warning all of us NOW AS IN **John 4: 35-38**]**

said Student.

‘It’s becoming more and more apparent Student, as we dig deeper into the scriptures, verses that did not seem to make any sense, are now tying into others which keep disclosing more truths.’ said Sweetie. ‘That is what Teacher’s intentions are, in His methodical ways, He is bringing both of us into more truths which keep expanding. He always tells me it is the Holy Spirit working within us.’ said Student. ‘I thought I heard you say several hours ago that you were going to take the rest of the day off.’ said Sweetie. ‘I am Sweet Heart, that was a great dinner without my help, now I am really going to take the rest of the day off by going to bed. I’ll be hanging around the shop or here most of tomorrow, Love you Sweet Heart, see you tomorrow.’ Said Student. ‘Love you to.’ said Sweetie.

“Good morning Sweet Heart, I just got a call from some one asking if I could make a few sheet metal fittings for him this morning. We can have a bite to eat before he gets here can’t we.?” said Student. ‘I thought the idea was to get rid the tools, you will just have to clean the place up again.’ said Sweetie. ‘That’s right but it doesn’t hurt us to help others out when we can, if the tools are out there, I intend to use them until they are gone.’ said Student. ‘Eat your breakfast, we wouldn’t want to keep him waiting, would we?’ Said Sweetie. ‘I’ll be out there before he gets here, that was very good

,you sure can cook.’ said Student. ‘I know, There is some one driving up now.’ said Sweetie.

“Good morning, how are you?, they call me Student.” ‘I’m fine, I go by Bob, I called earlier about some fittings that have to be made in a sheet metal shop like this, these are all special and we need them first thing this afternoon, can I help you make them?.’ said Bob. ‘Well yes, this list of fittings is more than I would care to do this morning, are you sure what you make will look like what you have drawn on this piece of cardboard?’, ‘we generally don’t let others come in and make what they need.’ said Student. ‘Yes, let’s get started, I’ll do the elbows and odd shaped fittings, if you will make the straight stuff.’ said Bob. ‘Hey! Bob you do know what you are doing, we will soon be finished, and you will be out of here, I’ll open this double door, if you backed up I’ll help you get loaded.’ Said Student. ‘Have you ever considered selling these tools?.’ Said Bob. Student let this question sink in for a few moments. ‘Well yes, a short time ago, we never gave it a lot of thought, however, the subject has been discussed a couple of times.’ said Student. ‘I know tomorrow is Saturday, is there a chance I could bring another person over to look at what you have here tomorrow?.’ said Bob ‘I guess so, can you make it around 9:00 in the morning, we have other plans after that.’ said Student. ‘We will be here by that time, Thanks Student, I can’t thank you enough.’ said Bob. ‘You are welcome Bob, see you at nine.’ said Student.

“Sweetie, you will never guess what Bob just asked me?.” said Student. ‘Bob who?.’ said Sweetie. ‘Don’t get cute, how many people have I been around in the last three hours?.’ said Student. ‘Was that Bob?, OK, I give up, what did Bob ask you?.’ said Sweetie. ‘He was in a hurry to have some fittings done before noon and asked if He could help me make some of them, there were several that would have taken more time than I wanted to work today, so I let him do the tough ones and did the easy straight fittings myself.’ said Student. ‘That was nice of you, I can remember not to long ago, no one touched the tools.’ said Sweetie. ‘Bob asked me as we were loading his truck,’ ‘Have you ever considered selling the tools?.’ said Student. ‘Your kidding, when does he want them?.’ said Sweetie. ‘He sort of apologized, and asked if he could bring over another person around nine tomorrow, I said that would be OK, but we have other plans soon after that.’ said Student. ‘That’s almost unbelievable.’ said Sweetie. ‘Yes, I’m going to miss having them around, even if I never used them again.’ said Student. ‘Now don’t start that, you’ll never quite working as long as we still have them.’ said Sweetie. ‘We’ll see what happens tomorrow.’ said Student.

Student then spent the remaining part of the day thumbing through his bible, looking for any information about Saul, then renamed Paul by Jesus. I'm not going to do any thing except maybe take some notes as to why any one would decide **Rom 10: 9-10** Guarantees beyond any reasonable doubt, that they have been saved. **#9** *that you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. #10 For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.* Where does Paul get this information?. The correct plan had been laid out years ago. It would appear that we must look back into **Luke 1: 10- 17** concerning the birth of John the baptist **#10** *and the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of incense offering. #11 And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the alter of incense. #12 Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him. #13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name of [John]. #14 "You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. #15 "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb. #16 "And he will turn many of the Sons of Israel back to their God. #17 "It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of ElUah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

Question!, Regarding **Luke 1:17** [*"It is he, John who will go as forerunner before J [Him, Jesus 1 "Why would Jesus require a forerunner?," said Student to himself, 'I'd better spend a little more time on this tonight while it is fresh in my mind. Lets see now, Mat 3:1-8 is the first time **John the Baptist** is mentioned in the New Testament. [What is John the Baptist best known for?, #1. His teaching the significance of baptism by full immersion to be seen as an example, **To all, for all** time. #2. His baptism by full immersion in water, which at that Old Testament time, if one confessed their sins, could begin to bear fruit in keeping with repentance according to **Mat 3:8**. However this baptism, **Could not give the gift of the Holy Spirit** until the Day of Pentecost."*

"While we are at this point now, with the subject of baptism the main topic, let's look at what Jesus is teaching, Yes **teaching!**, Why else would Jesus leave Judea, and go into Galilee when He knew that the Pharisees had heard He was in Judea teaching baptism to His disciples. **John 4:1-3** *Therefore*

when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John #2 (although Jesus himself Was not baptizing, but His disciples were), #3 He left Judea and went away again into Galilee.

“I have spent a lot of time here explaining the importance of a full immersion water baptism, as first taught by John the Baptist and then Jesus In John 4:1 -3. Which is jumping around in many cases, now in these examples however it is important to get back to **Mat 3:1 -8** to learn more about John the Baptist and his purposes. #1 *Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying,* #2 *“Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* #3 *For this is the one referred to by Isaiah prophet when he said, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT.* #4 *Now John himself had a garment of camel’s hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.* #5 *Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan;* #6 *And they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, they confessed their sins.* #7 *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? #8 “Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance. [Verses #7 and #8 are very clear in their meaning that the Pharisees and the Sadducees were turned down for baptism by John the Baptist. Before John would baptize any one, they had to confess their sins as in verse #6. However before that they had to change their thoughts and ways to show they were bearing fruit in keeping with repentance, which would be evident to all to see, as found in verse #8.*

Mat 3:8 *“Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance.*

“I had better call this a day, I don’t know where the hours go, every time I get onto the subject of a full immersion baptism in water, to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, I lose my total sense of time, however, I had better finish these thoughts, SEE WHAT THE APOSTLE PETER HAD TO SAY AS HE PREACHED THE VERY FIRST SERMON, UNDER THE NEW COVENANT, AT PENTECOST, FOR OUR STUDY, IN ACT 2:36-38 #36 *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ-----fulfill Jesus whom you have crucified. #37 *Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” #38 Peter said to them, “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.

“Are you still awake Sweet Heart?, she must have dozed off while waiting for me to finish what I had begun.” Said Student. ‘Sweetheart, I’m sorry to have to wake you, as usual I got into many scriptures that are dear to my heart.’ Said Student. ‘That’s fine Student, remember Bob is bringing some one to look at the tools at 9: 00 in the morning, I love you Student.’ ‘I love you to Sweet heart, good night, have a good sleep.’ said Student.

“Student the shop phone is ringing, don’t they know that today is Saturday?.” said Sweetie. ‘I’ll get it, probably a wrong number anyway, hello, this is Student, what can I do for you today.’ ‘Hello Student, this is *3sil*, you will remember, I was working for the gas company and would do some of your gas furnace start ups in years past.’ ‘Sure do remember youT , you always did a great job for us, and always there on time, what can we do for you today Justin?.’ said Student. ‘Well I’m looking for a good set of sheet metal working tools, have you ever considered selling yours?.’ said J ‘Yes, this is nuts, in fact we had a young fellow looking at them yesterday, I felt he does not have the money when he asked if he could bring in another guy, to look at them at 9:00 this morning, my wife and I are going to be gone soon after 9:00 this morning, so I am going to tell him at that time, he is getting a call from me this evening for a yes or no, I can call you this evening after I talk to him, you may be able to pick them up on this coming monday.’ Said Student. ‘That ‘s great, expect your call this evening.’ said Js”

“Who was that.” said Sweetie. ‘Do you remember Jt.i. who at one time was working for the gas company, and was always here on time, for the start up?.’ said Student. ‘Sure do, from you conversation with him, am I guessing correctly, that he is also looking for some sheet metal equipment?.’ Said Sweetie. ‘You have that right, I have a feeling he will be picking them up on Monday.’ said Student.

“Un-believable, two calls in two days, what are the chances *that3xt* will take them if BoE cannot come up with the money?.” said Sweetie. 3 iiiii remembers what our finished jobs looked like, He’ll take them for sure, if Bob doesn’t. said Student. ‘Bob is just pulling up to the shop.’ said Sweetie. ‘I see them, do you still want to go up over the park today?, you realize there is still some snow along both sides of the highway in some spots.’ said Student. ‘Sure do,’ said Sweetie. This sale couldn’t come at a better time said Student to himself. I’ll have to make sure to thank God for all the blessings He has given Sweetie and me lately.

“Hi there Bob, good to see you again.” said Student. ‘Good to see you again

Student, I want you to meet Paul, he wants to spend a little time for an inventory count.” said Bob. ‘Hello there Paul, I believe I told Bob that my wife and I had a short trip scheduled for today, you folks can take the inventory and then just lock the door on your way out, if that works for you?’ said Student. ‘That works fine for me.’ said Paul. ‘By the way, when I return this evening, I will call for your answer, we have another buyer who will take them this coming Monday.’ said Student. ‘Thanks for hanging around Student, I appreciate it, I’ll lock the door for sure.’ said Bob. ‘I’ll give you a call tonight Bob.’ said Student.

“That was a great trip up over the divide today Sweet Heart, hard to imagine that many out of state vehicles here as early as this.” said Student. ‘It wore me out, there was not a lot to see, next time lets wait until we have been told the flowers are all in bloom.’ said Sweetie. ‘You have to admit that we were not in danger of a collision with an elk, like a couple, or maybe three months ago on those other two highways.’ said Student. ‘What time did you say you were going to call Bob about the sale on the tools.’ said Sweetie. ‘There is plenty of time for that, what’s for dinner tonight,’ said Student. ‘Left overs from last night, I’ll go in and start dinner if you want to make sure the shop is locked.’ said Sweetie.

“That was a good dinner, Sweet Heart, can I help you with the dishes, if not I have a couple of other things to write about tonight before I forget them.” said Student. ‘You can bet ;you better help me with the dishes tonight!, thanks for asking, by the way what are you writing in there, a book?’ said Sweetie. ‘Nooo, I’m not writing a book, I keep remembering scriptures that reinforce each other, regarding the significance of water baptism to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, I was just going to look at **John 3: 1-7**, want to read it.’ said Student. ‘Sure right after you help me with the dishes.’ said Sweetie. ‘You sure couldn’t be considered a hard nose, is there any other thing;. I could help you with?.’ said Student, as he hung up his dish cloth. ‘Sure, now lets take a look at **John 3: 1-7 #1** *Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. #2 this man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs as You*

do unless God is with him.” #3 Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God.” #4 Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter his mother’s womb and be born again, can he?” #5 Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. #6 ‘That which is born of the

flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit. #7 “Do not be amazed that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’

“Your coming along quite well Student, I’m with you, how can so many of these scriptures be ignored and over looked by so many?.” said Sweetie ‘It’s going to be interesting to see how Preacher react’s to us at church tomorrow, after that time we spent with them at there house.’ said Student. ‘Hey!, Student, didn’t you say you had to call Bob, to ask if they are going to take the tools, alsoL I hope they are still waiting for your calls.’ ‘Your right, I nearly forgot, now where is Bob’s phone number?, here it is, Bob this is Student,’ ‘hello Student, thanks for trusting us in your shop today, I’m sorry we will not be taking your tools.’ said Bob. ‘I’m sorry to Bob, they would have been good for you with your abilities, I have to make another call, talk to you later.’ said Student. ‘You heard that, Bob is not taking the tools, so I better cali:1. right away, here’s his number, will you dial it for me and then hand me the phone?.’ said Student. ‘Sure, — High t this is Student’s wife, he asked me to dial you, I remember you from a couple of times, when you started up our gas furnaces.’ said Sweetie. ‘That’s right, lets see now, Student calls you Sweetie, doesn’t he?.’ said Juit. ‘He sure does, here he is **Jsta**’ ‘Hi, Jsi you just bought yourself a great set of shop tools, can you have them out of here by Monday?.’ said Student. ‘Thanks, we will see you on monday morning, you just caught me before I turned in for the night, now I can have a good nights sleep, see you then Student.’ said J’ ‘Fine, see you.’ said Student.

“We should be getting to bed soon Student, tomorrow is going to be a big day, how do you think Preacher is going to react tomorrow after that get together the other night.?”said Sweetie. ‘We will just wait and see, He may not even expect us to attend any more, who knows, I’m not ready to go some where else at this time, however if the church that Teacher presides over in town is any thing like the ones Evangelist presides over, across mountains, then I’m out of here.’ said Student. ‘I love you Student, give me a hug before I go to bed.’ said Sweetie. ‘Come here, this has turned out to be another blessed day, I love you to. Do you remember a while ago you asked if I’m writing a book?, I know that was just an expression, however, I have pages of scriptures, from my lessons, in which I have been considering for some time, putting into a story about several true life characters. I’m very *ST*

close to being finished with these scriptures that specifically spell out the requirements for every and any one to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’ said Student. ‘Are you asleep Sweet Heart!?, it’s a good thing she never

gets quite as excited as I do about this work, what a blessing this lady is for us all, I love you Sweet Heart.

“Hey you!, what’s the idea of falling asleep on me last night?” said Student. ‘Sorry, the last thing I remember, or maybe I was dreaming, did you say you might put all of your studies into a story for others to read?’ said Sweetie. ‘I did mention I might do that, there are a couple of more scriptures to be added at which time Teacher and I will decide about making it available to others.’ said Student. ‘I had better get up Student, is cold cereal Ok this morning.’ said Sweetie. Yes, cold cereal is fine, have you given any thought about communion for you and me, before we go to Preacher’s service today, we have some grape juice and bread which we can serve each other right here.’ said Student. Teacher has been offering for some time to come out here and serve it to us just like he serves the three nurses at the hospital, who some times miss church because they have to work on some sundays.’ Said Sweetie. Let’s have communion and then have a bite to eat just before church.’ said Student. ‘I’ll get the communion ready if you want to set the breakfast table.’ said Sweetie.

“Well it looks like the same place, seems like we have been gone more than a week, if we have to leave, we will be leaving the best friends we have ever had.” said Sweetie. ‘I feel the same Sweet Heart, lets just be the same in these folks eyes and see what happens today.’ said Student. As usual the entire congregation was milling around and visiting, waiting for Preacher to greet them with a big hello, which would send all but a few die hard’s like Sweetie to their chairs. It never failed, Sweetie was generally one of the last to be seated.

“Were you able to get a lot of visiting in?” said Student. ‘I’ll tell you all about it later, hush: said Sweetie. Student was going over in his mind what he would say to Preacher as the congregation began to sing, NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS. Student was still going over so many things said over the years, the bible studies, the meals, game nights, ‘Student!, are you in a trance?, it’s time to go, what are we going to say to Preacher and his wife.’ said Sweetie. ‘I’ve been thinking about that through most of the sermon, why not just thank them for the time we spent with them and tell them as we always do, “We love you folks, see you next week” said Student

“That was great today Preacher, thanks for the visit you folks allowed Sweetie and I last week” said Student. ‘You are welcome, we hope we were able to answer the questions you were concerned with.’ said Preacher. ‘You did, now one more question, is bible study next week and

where is **it being held?**.' said Sweetie 'Our bouse.' said Preacher. 'Give us a hug, we love you folks.' said Student

"How did that go for you today, Sweet Heart, did you notice any difference in the way people acted towards either one of us today?." Said Student. 'Can't say I did, I did however notice that your mind was some where else all through the message.' said Sweetie. 'I'm sorry, I love those folks, however we have to admit the times we spent one on one and then more recently, two on one which then also included you with Preacher and myself, these are the only times we have been exposed to the actual meanings of most of the Scriptures, it has opened up a whole new meaning for us both.' said Student. 'I'm not ready to leave as yet, lets give it one more Sunday, which will also let us attend bible study at Preacher's house next Sunday.' said Sweetie. 'Lets get a bite to eat down town, I need to get back home soon, to get a few small tools separated, I'm not sure what time **J.z** see will show up tomorrow morning.' said Student.

"That was a good lunch Student, I didn't expect that at all, you better change those clothes before you go out to the shop." said Sweetie. 'What are we going to do with all these shop clothes, if I don't have a shop?, I'll be back into the house in a short while, what did you say we are having for dinner?.' said Student. 'Don't get cute, you just had your dinner.' said Sweetie.

"We're all ready for **Ji.i** tomorrow, Sweet Heart, if I spend just a little more time, I should come close to winding up these writings for Teacher in a couple more pages." said Student. 'What are you going to do then?, with a lot of time on your hands, how do a couple of sand witches sound for later on?.' said Sweetie. 'Good Sweet Heart, she is right, I will have a lot of time on my hands to do more of these studies.' said Student to himself, I had better get back to these last two or three scriptures, which I remember writing before, but if I talk about them Teacher suggests that I had better write them down again. "There will in many cases, always be scriptures that many do not understand, & they will never come to an understanding until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, in other words, there will always be a need for those folks who can give a written proof that to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, one must First **Repent** which does not come about without a beginning of a change in habits, actions, mind and heart. [Which cannot possibly occur at some instance or get together where the supposed new converts repeats an incantation and immediately walks away with salvation. **J** "I wrote about these following verses before. Lets look again at what John the B aptist had to say to the Pharisees and Sadducees who were coming for baptism in the Jordan. **Mat 3:5-8 #5** *Then Jerusalem was going out to him,*

[John] and all Judea and all the district around Jordan; #6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins. #7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? #8 “Therefore

*bear fruit in keeping with repentance; [John was refusing baptism to the Pharisees and Sadducees until they repented and were able to bear fruit for others to see] “We are winding down now, lets now look again at **Act 2: 36-41** [In which, includes Peter preaching the first sermon at Pentecost where he scolds all in attendance for their part in Christ’s crucifixion] #36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ this Jesus whom you crucified.” #37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” #38 Peter said to them, “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. #39 “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself” #40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, Be saved from this perverse generation!” #41 So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls.*

“How can the naysayer deny what is so specific in the Scriptures?, these are the same folks that say, ‘your telling me that I am going to Hell?.’ ‘No!, I am simply writing down word for word what the Scriptures in the bible are testifying to.

***Act 8: 26-39** May have been included before, if so, they are required again. These scriptures are very specific and could not possibly be misunderstood to mean any thing less than a full immersion baptism in water by Philip to an Ethiopian who was wont to understand the passage of Scriptures. #26 But an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip saying, “Get up and go South to the road that descends from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a desert road.) #27 So he got up and went; and there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure; and he had come to Jerusalem to worship, #28 and he was returning and was sitting in his chariot, and was reading the prophet Isaiah. #29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” #30 Philip ran up and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and said, “Do you understand what you are reading?” #31 And he said, ‘Well, how could I, unless some one*

guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. #32 Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: “HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO THE SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER WAS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN **HIS** MOUTH. #33 IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGEMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.’ #34 The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this is? Of himself or of some one else?” Then Philip

opened his mouth, and beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.

#36 As they went along the road they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look? Water! What prevents me from being baptized?” #37 [And Philip said, fyou believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”] #38 And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. #39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing. _____

“Honey you forgot to eat your sand-witch, which you asked for several hãurs ago, you had better close for now what you are doing for another time, J; is probably going to be here around eight for the tools, so we need to get some rest.” said Sweetie. ‘Thanks for reminding me Sweet Heart, you know how I can get tied up in this work, It’s a good thing you came in, I was just getting ready to begin the conversion of Saul in Act 22:1- 16 **Paul’s Defense Before The Jews.**’ said Student. ‘I put the sand-witch away for another time, love you Student, sleep tight.’ said Sweetie. ‘Good night, Sweet Heart, I love you to.’ said Student.

“That was a great breakfast Sweet Heart, I was just thinking, after the tools are gone, I can probably have a lot more time in the kitchen, showing you some of the tricks I learned as a young man.” said Student. ‘Sure, how many times have you been heard saying?, ‘I can’t even boil water,’ you had better get out of here before you get yourself in some more trouble.’ said Sweetie. just pulled up to the shop, I am going out there to make sure he takes every thing that is left, If nothing else happens, I’ll be back in soon and give you a lesson on how nice it will be with me under your feet from now on.’ said Student.

“Hi there J\$ where’s all your help?.” said Student. ‘Hello Student, we have

two more rigs that are right behind me, we may even have to make more than one trip.’ said **Jst.4** ‘Lets go over all these tools, I need the entire shop cleaned out this evening so I can have this building completely cleaned by tomorrow night.’ said Student. ‘No problem, here is your payment in full, thanks, we can really put these tools to good use’ said **J’c1A** ‘It’s good to see you again J’, I have some work to complete in my office in the house if you need me, I’ll probably be there for the rest of the day.’ said Student. “Now’s my chance to get back to Saul’s conversion with Paul latter defending himself before the Jews.” ‘I’m back Sweetie, here’s a check for full payment for the tools, Ju.’ said they would have the place completely cleaned out before this evening,’ said Student. ‘That’s great, would you care to eat that sand-witch I made last night for you?, you don’t fool me, your headed for the office.’ said Sweetie

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“There you go again, Sweetie, how did you figure that I might end up back in the *office?*, a sand-witch would go pretty good right now; I was thinking if I could complete Paul’s version of the beginning, through completion of Saul’s

conversion, as found in **Act 22-1-16, this study would be nearly complete.**” said Student. ‘I’ll get the food, how about some lemon aid?’ said Sweetie. ‘Sounds great Sweet Heart, you know where you’ll find me, I have got to call Teacher, is there any thing you need to tell him.’ said Student. ‘Yes, only hello’ said Sweetie.

“Hey Teacher!, this is Student” ‘Hello, I have been wondering how you and Sweetie enjoyed church yesterday?’ said Teacher. ‘It was ok, we are giving it one more Sunday with the bible school and lunch after church.’ said Student. “I have been thinking about Saul’s conversion Teacher, didn’t Saul & now Paul receive the gift of the Holy Spirit in a time period described in *Act 9: 18 And immediately there felifrom his [Paul’s j eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and got up and was baptized; Act 9:19 and he took food and was strengthened.* ‘Teacher, there is a time period of several years here between Pentecost and the times just mentioned in **Act 9:18-19.**’ Said Student. ‘That’s correct, Student.’ Said Teacher. ‘Well then doesn’t that, beyond a doubt, disclaim the notion that the belief in **Rom 10: 9 that you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the deaá you will be saved; Rom 10:10 for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.** ‘Resulting in salvation?, these time frames are impossible.’ said Student. ‘That’s correct.’ said Teacher. ‘Not only that

Teacher, what about the **Act 2:41**? *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. [Meaning that there were about three thousand souls added or saved ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST } [THE VERY FIRST DAY THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS AVAILABLE FOR AN INDIVIDUAL'S SALVATION WAS ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST. See Act 2:36-38 For the first time the total instructions were given. Act 2:36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ----- this Jesus whom you crucified." Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Act 2:38 Peter said to them, "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.

"Teacher at this time, I need to go over again, what all we have just been talking about in this conversation today, we can't afford to have a statement by either of us that cannot be verified in the scriptures, is there time for that right now?" said Student. 'Lets go for it now Student.' said Teacher. 'I will be asking the same questions as before, in some cases worded a little different, I know what the answer from you will be before hand, however we need to keep this as simple as we can so as not to confuse a single person who might by chance read through what is written here.' Said Student. 'I'm ready any time Student.' said Teacher. #1. Teacher from this point we will look again at the **First** instructions that the apostle Peter gave on **The Day of Pentecost, And The Beginning Of The New Covenant. Act 2:36** *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ---this Jesus whom you have crucified. Act 2: 37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Act 2: 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. #39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself" Act 2:40 And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" Act 2:41 So then those who had received his word were baptized and that day there were added about three thousand souls. [Or About Three Thousand Souls Were Saved On That First Day. I*

“Teacher, Is there any more that can be given here, that would add to this forgoing information?.” Said Student. ‘You had, earlier on, I believe you said “ began this same lesson beginning in Act 2:1 through **Act 2: 41** . You have just quoted absolute proof here that the very first instructions for an individual’s salvation were given on the day of Pentecost, very good Student.’ said Teacher.

“Teacher the main purpose of this study for me, has been to prove that a full immersion in water as called for in Act 2:37 -38 is the only way one receives the gift of the Holy Spirt.” said Student. ‘That’s correct Student, and those instructions have not changed to this day, look again at Act 2;41 *So then, those who had received his word were baptize; and on that day were added about three thousand souls.*’ said Teacher. ‘Would it be correct to say then Teacher, that hundreds upon hundreds of souls had been added **[or saved I** in the next four to six years after Pentecost?.’ said Student. ‘That may be to conservative Student, lets just say there were many.’ said Teacher.

‘We want to look now at Act **92’ 149** *iNow Saul, still breathing threats*
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and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, #2 and asked for the letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that Vhe found any of them belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. #3 As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; #4 and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him. “Saul, Sauls, why are you persecuting me?” #5 And he said, “Who are you, Lord?” and He said, “I am Jesus who you are persecuting, #6 but get up and go into the city, and it will be told to you what you must to do.” #7 The men who traveled with him were speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.

“Hey Teacher!, are you still there?, I’m so sorry, when I get into these scriptures, I sort of loose track of time.” said Student. ‘I sure am, this is important, are you suggesting that you have some thing else to do, rather than going through these passages at this time?.’ said Teacher. ‘No, but I know that you do, I’m going to take a short break, and then maybe finish this part of Saul, I’ll give you a call tomorrow, to see what you think about a couple of other ideas that may work.’ Said Student. ‘Yes give me a call, it’s going to be interesting to see what else has been revealed in the passages, looking forward to your call Student.’ Said Teacher.

“So your off the phone, how about dinner in about twenty minutes.?” said Sweetie ‘That would work out fine for me, I just finally excused myself to

Teacher, and told him I would call again tomorrow, He was helping and listening to what I was reading, when I finally caught on that, he might have some thing more important to do than listening to me.’ said Student. ‘You had better get ready for dinner.’ said Sweetie. ‘What’s for dinner?’ said Student. ‘Your favorite dishes, left overs.’ said Sweetie.

“That was good Sweetheart, guess what I’ll be doing for a couple more hours?, I guess she either didn’t hear me or is ignoring me. ‘Now where was I on the conversion of Saul?, here we are, #8 *Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; and leading him by the hand, they brought him into Damascus.* #9 *And he was three days with out sight, and neither ate nor drank.* #10 *Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I, am Lord.”* #11 *And the Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the Street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarus named Saul, for he is praying,* #12 *and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him, so that he might regain his sight.”* #13 *But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he did to your saints at Jerusalem; #14 and here he has authority from the chiefpriests to bind all who*

call on Your name.” #15 *But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen instrument of Mine, to bear My name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel,’ #16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’ sake.”* #17 *So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you might regain your sight /eflhled with th Holy Spirit.”* #18 *And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, [and he got up and was baptized; At which time Saul received the Holy Spirt, LETS TAKE A LOOK AT SAUL’S VERSION IN ACT 22: 12-16 in which Saul at this time is called Paul, giving a personal defense before the Jews. #12 “A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, #13 came to me, and standing near to me said ‘Brother Saul, receive your sight!’ And at that very time I looked up at him. #14 “And he said, ‘The God of our Fathers has appointed you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear an utterance from His mouth.*

#15 ‘For you will be a witness for Him to all men of what you have seen and heard. #16 ‘Now why do you delay? baptized. d wash away your sji, calling fli name.’

“Student was going over in his mind all he had just discussed, with Teacher and now written down concerning the time and place of Saul’s encounter with the Lord, Jesus Christ As summarized in the verses **Act 9: 1-19** AND **THEN** Act 22: 12-16, In which it is obvious, Saul in both cases did not receive the Holy Spirit until he was commanded to *‘get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.’* ‘Now thought Student, it has just been proven that the Apostle Paul had never proclaimed Jesus until **Act 9: 19-21** and *He took food and was strengthened. Now for several days he was with the disciples who were in Damascus. #20 and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.” #21 All those hearing him continued to be amazed, and were saying, “Is this not he who in Jerusalem destroyed those who called on this name, and who had come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chiefpriests?”*”

“This is enough for today,” said Student under his breath, as he looked back through his lessons he had just copied from the bible. I’m sure there are others who can give a more complete and accurate account in a time span of months and years between the day of Pentecost and the time Paul began to proclaim Jesus. as the Son of God. **Act 9: 20** and *immediately he [Saul and now Paul] began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.* The point of my going over and then repeating Paul’s entry into his long awaited

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ministry, BEGiNNING YEARS AFTER PENTECOST, clears up the existing beliefs that Paul’s letters and writings have been misconstrued, as in **Rom: 10:9- 10** leading those who have been taught and are unfamiliar with the scriptures, into the belief that an un believer can at any time, any where, be asked or lead to repeat what is commonly called a sinners prayer, generally at the end of a Sunday meeting’ or even after a funeral; at which time, some in attendance have just been assured, they have just received salvation, while most in attendance have again had their belief’s about salvation confirmed, [‘FOR WHO KNOWS, HOW MANY TIMES?.’] ONCE AGAiN **Rom 10:9-10 #9** *that fyou confess with you mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; #10 For with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

“A short time ago, I promised myself, that’s enough for today. When I get started, it is really difficult to stop, there is always another thought and confermation coming to mind, which at that time I had better get written

down before it escapes my thoughts;’ Hey Sweet Heart!, ssh, she’s asleep, I had better begin starting right now, to pay more attention to what is going on between Sweetie and myself, these lessons are about finished, maybe they can be completed tomorrow. ‘I love you Sweet Heart,’ whispered Student, as he quietly moved his share of the blanket to himself, so as not to disturb Sweetie.

“Good morning, Sweet Heart, what happened to you last night?, you really conked out.” said Student. ‘I fell asleep a couple of times, and then decided to not disturb you, how many more days did you say there would be before you completed your present scripture study?’ said Sweetie. ‘It’s getting close Sweet Heart, maybe tomorrow, I’m now at the point of proving that to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the apostle Peter and the rest were asked in *Act 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”* In answer to that question, **Act 2:38** *Peter said to them, “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.* ‘How many times have you quoted these baptism scriptures in this study, Student?, I had better get us a bite to eat, what with all the energy you are burning up, punching all those keys on the keyboard. ‘said Sweetie. ‘You are right Sweetie Heart, what can I do to help?’ said Student. ‘Set the table, and then stay out of the kitchen, it’s a surprise. ‘said Sweetie. ‘What do you mean it’s a surprise?, I can already smell the bacon, and is that the last of those warmed up, home made cinnamon rolls, you surprised me with once already?, ‘I think I am going to keep you after all’, said Student. ‘That’s fine with me.’ said Sweetie.

“Good morning Teacher, I need to apologize again for keeping you on the phone for so long yesterday .“ said Student. ‘Don’t worry about it Student, that was an interesting study.’ said Teacher. ‘Without going through all those scriptures again Teacher, I would like to repeat, **Rom 10: 9-10.**’ said Student. *#9 that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; #10 for with the heart, a person believes, resulting in righteousness and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.* ‘Now Teacher, was **Rom 10; 9-10** as written in the Apostle Paul’s letter to the Romans, written before, 1 or after After— Pentecost?, and how many years between the events?’ 4 - 5 years ‘ approx. said Student.’ We talked about Paul’s salvation yesterday, it did not come for years after he began to persecute the Christians *Act 9: 1-2 Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the*

Lord, went to the high priest, #2 and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that Vhe found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem.’ said Teacher. ‘It’s safe to say now, that Pentecost was at the least, four years before Paul’s letter for the Romans, which was then delivered to the Romans.’ said Student. ‘That’s correct Student, to make it more clear, how about one of your older studies, remember 2’ Pet 3:15-17 ?.’ said Teacher. ‘Sure do Teacher, here goes.’ said Student #15 *and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you. #16 as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things, in which it is hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. #17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprinczpled men and fall from your own steadfastness.* ‘Peter is correct, even with your guidance Teacher, It took me a while to figure out Paul’s First letter to the Corinthians’ said Student. ‘You are coming close to the end of this very interesting study Student, give me a call tomorrow, I have just about enough time to get to a meeting.’ said Teacher. ‘Thanks Teacher, Sweetie and I sure appreciate you, we’ll talk to you latter.’ said Student. ‘Now,’ Student said to himself, ‘we have just proved to others, beyond any doubt that, **The day of Pentecost** took place , at least four to five years before the Romans received The letter of **Paul to the Roman’s**, This is the same letter that so many people, who fill the pews, base their eternal salvation on in chapter **Rom 10: 9-10** . If others having read this study, take issue with the time span above, let’s change it to a month or week, instead of the four year span used in the above illustration. These same people are going to have to begin dealing with

Act 2: 41 -**42** *So then those who had received his word were baptized and that day there were added [or saved] about three thousand souls. #42 They were continually devoting them- selves to the apostle ‘s teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.* Student still thinking to himself said, ‘is there still some one out there at this point, who would deny baptism for salvation?, If so, how would all the thousands of new christians having been saved, if baptism for salvation had ended after that very first day of Pentecost?, then all others seeking salvation would be waiting, years, months or days for Paul’s instructions as found in **Rom 10: 9-10 GIVE! ME! A! BREAK! On the day of Pentecost, when the first christians were reborn, Saul and later re-named by Jesus Christ as Paul, bad not yet**

been commissioned to seek out the new christians for their punishments.

“Oops!, I almost did it, **good** thing I can still squeeze this next part in which I had nearly forgotten, it will fit in perfectly, in what we have just went over in this essay. Now Student in his studies of the Scriptures has quoted over and over, straight from the bible, the fact that a thought process, tied into a belief, and in many cases, spoken by a preacher, unknowing friend or who knows what, in an incantation, by which a new recruit is lead in what is commonly called an alter call, in which time the subject repeats words and supposedly becomes saved, as if by magic. **[TELL ME THIS, WHERE IN ALL the SCRIPTURES CAN TILLS BE FOUND, COULD IT BE PART OF THE Rom 10: 9-10 FARCE ? I**

“It’s time to put a new face on this study, enough of all the feel good scam as found outside the Scriptures. I have to get into Acts soon,” thought Student, ‘It seems these same people who base their salvation on **Rom 10:9-10 or in** some cases combined with **Eph 2; 7-8**, have never look taken a look at The Acts. “But before that **Mat 3:1- 17**

“It’s time for a break, I wonder where Sweetie is, there she is now. ‘Where have you been now?, when I do get some time off, I can’t find you.’ said Student ‘Listen!, I told you I was leaving for a while, you must have not heard me, you didn’t even look up or nod your head.’ said Sweetie. ‘Well I think I’ll give you another chance, but this is the last one, what’s for dinner Sweet Heart?,’ said Student. ‘Same question, same answer, wait and see.’ said Sweetie. ‘I know where you were, it was at the women’s bible study, wasn’t it?.’ said Student. ‘Yes and they still have that large crowd.’ said Sweetie. It’s a good thing for the woman, keeps most of tl,ern out of trouble.’ said Student. ‘I have a lot of friends that are there every week, what am I going to do about that?.’ said Sweetie. ‘It seems to me it all depends on what we decide, after this Sunday with church ,and the bible study afterwards.’ said Student. ‘Would you mind if I take a short nap before we eat?.’ said Student. ‘Go ahead, I know you must be worn out, with the long hours you

put in.’ said Sweetie. ‘You think your cute, don’t you, well I do too, come here and give me a kiss,you Sweet Heart, I sure love you.’ said Student. ‘Love you to Student, do you want a wake up call for dinner?.’ said Sweetie. ‘I guess, ok, yes. “That was a great meal Sweetie, I don’t believe I have ever tasted better barbequed pork ribs, and that cole slaw salad!, we are going to have to do this more often.” said Student. ‘Thank you Student, how are you doing with your bible lessons?.’ said Sweetie. ‘Quite well, I am just beginning again a short lesson on John the Baptist and what his impact on

man's salvation has been, as found in Mat 3; 1- 17, can I help you with the dishes, if not I would like to finish these scriptures today.' Said Student. 'I can do the dishes, see you later, love you.' said Sweetie. Thank you, love you to Sweetie' said Student.

"Much of what has been written in this study to this point, has dealt with mans misinterpretation of many of the Scriptures." thought Student. 'I'm not going to bother Teacher now, but if I were to ask Him, it would be a sure cinch that a couple of God's warnings would fit in perfect at this point Heb 8: 5 *who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle ; for, "SEE",* He says ***"THAT YOU MAKE ALL THINGS ACCORDING TO THE PAITERN WHICH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN.*" Gal 1: 6-9 *I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; #7 which is really not another; only there are those who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. #8 But even we, or an angeifrom heaven, should preach the gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed!. #9 As we have said before, so I say again now, f any man is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, he Ls to be accursed!***

"When a true story is to be told, one must begin at the very beginning. This is a chronological must, pertaining to the occurrence in time, as in this case of the Scriptures. With this in mind, we shall begin this part of the study in **Mat 3: 1-17 #1** *Now in those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying #2 "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand. #3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!" #4 Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. #5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; #6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, [as they confessed their sins in repentance J #7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?*

#8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; [John has denied baptism to these Pharisees and Sadducees, until they bear fruit, or show repentance. } #9 and do you suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father ' ;for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up childdren to Abraham. #10 "The axe is already laid at the

*root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. #11 “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, [It would seem that John’s baptism for repentance, even though it could never include the gift of the Holy Spirit, is OUR must see lesson to learn, DESIGNED BY GOD Which parallels or corresponds with Heb 8:5 who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was WARNED by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, “SEE,” He says, “**THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN ON THE MOUNTAIN.**” “Stop right there,” Student said to himself, I must go back to **Mat 3: 1-3 #1** Now in those days John came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, #2 “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” #3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, “**THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’**” [‘It may have occurred to many, that this statement, “**MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT**” Meaning in this case, no!, road blocks by others wanting to change and distort the word!. I And again parallels Heb 8:5, “SEE,” He says, “**THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN WHICH WAS SHOWN ON THE MOUNTAIN** And then Act 2:36-38 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ this Jesus who you have crucified. #37 Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” #38 Peter said to them, “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. Now Act 2:38 is the very first of God’s commandments spoken on the day of Pentecost, by the apostle Peter and corresponds with the fact that the baptism of John the Baptist for repentance was to act as a copy leading to Act 2:38 If this were not so, would there be any reason for the birth of John the Baptist, or his teaching the baptism of repentance at that exact time and place?. “That does it, lets see the response to all these personal opinions,” said Student, ‘I may even have to change some of the information written here, when I look at it in the morning.’ said Student. ‘Hey Sweet Heart, where are you, if you have not started a meal, lets go down town and have a bite.’ said Student. ‘I thought you would never ask, did you give Teacher a call today?.’ said Sweetie.*

‘As a matter of fact no, I didn’t get a hold of Teacher yet, I tried a little earlier, with no answer, when we get back I’ll try again; where do you want to eat tonight?.’ said Student. ‘How about the usual?,’ lets not talk about any

of these studies you are doing or, the possibility of moving away from Preacher's location this evening, we can do that after we get back home.' said Sweetie. 'That's a deal.' said Student.

"That was a great meal Sweet Heart, kind of nice, getting away from what we have been dealing with the last few days." said Student. 'That's right, although the thought of leaving Preacher's congregation is never far from my mind.' said Sweetie. 'I'll be in the office, talk to you later Sweet Heart, I've got to call Teacher now before I do another thing.' said Student.

"Hey Teacher, this is Student, I tried to call you earlier, but no answer." said Student. 'How are you doing with your studies?.' said Teacher. 'Well I am winding them down, making sure that I have not missed one verse in the scriptures that would help a lost soul to realize, they do not have salvation.' said Student. 'From our conversations during these studies, it would appear that you have covered all or most of the bases.' said Teacher. 'You have always told me, when I quote any verses in the scriptures, they must be written down, I have done that in this study, but in completing it, I feel there are many passages of Scripture, that need repeating.' said Student. 'That's good Student, in this case, you should go over all of them again, when I look at what you have written, if it seems there is too much repetition, those verses could be removed later from the study.' said Teacher. 'That helps a lot Teacher, you may even suggest a better sequencing, between the Scriptures, If you can't think of any more pointers Teacher, I am going to get back to the studies, as always, thanks a lot.' said Student. 'Good to hear your coming along fine Student, I'll give you a call.' said Teacher. 'Thanks Teacher, I never could have done this study without you, I'll talk to you later.' said Student.

"A great deal of time has been spent earlier in this study," thought Student, 'proving repentance for the forgiveness of sins is the number one requisition, demanding a change in thoughts, habits and thus actions, in a move to prepare one for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, which of course can occur only when one understands fully that baptism, only by full immersion in water leads to salvation. For those who challenge these last opinions, which are also backed up word for word by the Scriptures. How many of you were prepared before hand, when you were told or asked to repeat an incantation, which according to the dictionary is an uttering of words purporting to have magical power, Is this man made opinion which you base your salvation upon?. And then to top it all off, you have been taught, that baptism is only for an indication that you already have the Holy Spirit?.'

[John the Baptist speaking, ' in Mat 4:11, followed by Mark 1:4, and then

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Apostle Peter in Act 2:38, in that order **J Mat 4:11** “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals, He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. **Mark 1:4** John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **Act 2:38** Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **AGAIN, NOW! Act 2:38** Is the very first time the provision to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit is spelled out in complete detail, at the beginning of the NEW TESTAMENT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST. We must now back up to the verse Act 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ---this Jesus whom you have crucified.” **Act 2:37** Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?” **Act 2:38** Peter said to them, “repent and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Act 2:39** “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off as many as the Lord our God will call to himself” **Act 2: 40** And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” **Act 2:41** So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousands souls. **PLEASE UNDERSTAND ACT 10:34** Opening his mouth, Peter said. “I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, [With a careful understanding of **Act 10:34**, in which Peter states that “God is not one to show partiality, “how could one possibly believe that in some cases, including (baptism, **Act 2:38**) for repentance and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, that God would look the other way, allowing some to believe they had just been saved stemming from information such as, **Rom 10:9-10?**. AND NOW Cor 14:33 For God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.]
As long as we have been visiting most of the far out myths, how about going into an average, Sunday Go To Meeting Church, specifically to ask every one in that congregation, **TWO QUESTIONS**, first question, “What is the act of full immersion in water have to do for one’s salvation?” There response, ‘**NOTHING**, it is only a sign to others, that this particular individual, has at some time in their past, **SOME HOW**, accepted Jesus into

their heart.’ Second question, ‘where could these instructions in the Scriptures be found?. Answer ‘No where!, one could never find any verses in the scriptures, that could be twisted to come up with this conclusion, in which many are instructed to base their very salvation upon.

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“Hey Sweet Heart, guess what?, I’m really getting close to wrapping up this study.” said Student. ‘Sure you are, ‘how many times have I heard that, I’ll believe it when I see it Student, just how many more Scriptures can you squeeze into these quotes, you always just happen to come up with another?.’ said Sweetie. ‘Don’t give me that cute smile, you think I’m having a lot of fun don’t you?, well let me tell you, this it’s hard work, by the way what’s for dinner,’ said Student. ‘I’ve been waiting for that food question, what do you want?,’ said Sweetie. ‘You put it on the table and I’ll eat it, in the mean time, I can get started at the beginning of Acts to wind this study up.’ Said Student. “As usual Sweetie, this meal is just excellent, tell me why any one could ever consider going our for dinner with food like this around?.” said Student. ‘That was good Student, no you don’t have to help me with the dishes, just get in there and lets get this study completed, so we can give some serious thought about our continued attending Preacher’s congregation, I love you Student. said Sweetie. ‘Love you too Sweet Heart. “Now where am I going to begin, it would seem there are many who believe they have a complete grasp of the entire bible, but seem to have very little interest in the early chapters of **THE ACTS of the Apostles**. This is where we begin this section of this study. **Act 1:1** *The first account I composed, Theophilus, about all that Jesus began to do and teach, #2 Until that day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen. #3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, **appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the Kingdom of God. #4 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from me; #5 For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now,**” [The many days from now, totals ten more days and falls on the day of Pentecost, which was no accident. 1 #6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You restore your Kingdom in Israel?” #7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; #8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in*

Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even the remotest part of the earth.” **The Ascension #9** And after He said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of sight. **#10** And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them. **#11** They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into the heaven, will come in

just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven **John 16: 7** “But I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Act 1: 12 The Upper Room Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away. **#13**

When they entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Phillip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James. **#14** These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers. **#15** At this time Peter stood up in the midst of the brethren (a gathering of about one hundred and twenty persons was there together), and said, **#16** “Brethren, the Scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit foretold by the mouth of David concerning Judas, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. **#17** “For he was counted among us and received his share in this ministry,” **#18** (Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out. **#19** And it became known to all who were living in Jerusalem; so that in their own language that field was called Hakeidama, that is, Field of Blood.) **#20**

“For it is written in the book of Psalms, ‘LET HIS HOMESTEAD BE MADE DESOLATE, AND LET NO ONE DWELL IN IT’; AND, ‘LET ANOTHER MAN TAKE HIS OFFICE.’ **#21** “Therefore it is necessary that of the men who accompanied us all the time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us — **#22** beginning with the baptism of John until the day that He was taken up from us—one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection.” (**Beginning in Acts 1: 23,24 and 26 and continuing into Acts 2: 1,2,3 and ending in #4, the word they only includes the eleven apostles and possibly the other two whom the lots were drawn for.**

There seems to be a misunderstanding where some folks believe the word they in this case included each and every one who happened to be in that crowd. I **#23 So they put forward two men, Joseph called Barsabbas**

(who was called Justus), and Matthias. #24 And they prayed and said, "You, Lord, who know the hearts of men, show which one of these two You have chosen. #25 to occupy this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." #26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

'Student, How long are you going to **be working today on your study?**, lets **take a walk and get away for the rest of the day.'** said Sweetie. **"Great idea, Sweetie, I've been wanting to take a look at that new larger culvert that was just installed, I can't count how many times I've checked for fish before the old one**

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was replaced.' said Student. "If you never saw fish before, what makes you think there are some in that brook now?." said Sweetie. "According to some of our neighbors they often saw youngsters walldng by with fish before we moved here, there is so much underbrush and other places I would not feel comfortable along that creek, I could never consider fishing it, there are bears all over this area." said Student. 'Tomorrow is Saturday, while we are walking to your possible new fishing hole, how about giving some thought about whether we go or stay in Preacher's church.' Said Sweetie. "It would seem to me Sweet Heart, that the decision has been made for us, I have spent hours copying page upon page of God's word that is being completely over looked for one reason or another." said Student. "What are we going to tell Preacher this Sunday?." said Sweetie. "Surely Preacher will understand, people come and go, when we don't show up it won't take Preacher long to notice, considering the questions I have asked Him lately."said Student. 'Here's your new fishing hole, see anything?," asked Sweetie." You were right Sweet Heart, how could I expect fish here now, when never before?." said Student.

'We better get back Sweetie, it's early enough for me to just about complete my written study this evening, what are you going to bring for food to Sunday's bible study?.' said Student. "There is always so much very good food there, they wouldn't even miss the casserole and brownies I am bringing." said Sweetie "Don't try to kid me, Sweet Heart, I'll be watching thefr every move in case they figure out the only way to keep us there, would be to kidnap and hold you for ransom, just to keep getting those wonderful dishes once a month" said Student. "Sure thing, you better get back to your study." said Sweetie.

'Now where was I?, OK, I had better go again to **Acts 1:26 And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven**

*apostles. [From this point on in Acts 2: 1-4 the word **they** includes the twelve apostles only] Acts 2: #1 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. #2 And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. #3 And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. #4 and they were alifihled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. #5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from eveiy nation under heaven. #6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. #7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
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#8 “And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? #9 “Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, #10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libra around Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, #11 Cretans and Arabs----we hear them in our own tongues speaking of the mighty deeds of God.” #12 And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying one to another, “What does this mean?” #13 But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine.”

‘I get so excited when I get into all the verses in Acts, we have gone over and over all the other scripture throughout the new testament, which should be enough to convince even the most harden nonbelievers, there is no way one can continue to deny what we are about to enter into in these following verses, where the Apostle Peter preached the very first sermon, Inspired by the Holy Spirit At Pentecost

*Peter’s **Sermon***

#14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: Men of Judea and all you who live Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words: #15 “For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day,’ #16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: #17 ‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LASTDA YS,’ GOD says, ‘THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MAN KIND; AND YOUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAMDREAMS,’ #18 EVEN ON MY BOND SLA VES, BOTH MEN AND WOMEN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH MY

SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY. #19 AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. #20 'THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THAT GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. #21 'AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED.' #22 "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know---#23 this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and knowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death. #24 "But God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it is impossible for Him to be held in its power. #25 "For David says of Him, I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE,' FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE 7'

*SHAKEN #26 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXALTED; MOREOVER MY FLESH WILL ALSO LIVE IN HOPE; #27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES, NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY. #28 'YOU HAVE MADE KNOWN TO ME THE WAYS OF LIFE; YOU WILL MAKE ME FULL OF GLADNESS WITH YOUR PRESENCE,' #29 "Brethren, I may confidently say to you regarding the patriarch David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. #30 "And so, because he was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT ONE OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, #31 he looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that **HE WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID HIS FLESH SUFFER DECAY** #32 "This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. #33 Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. #34 "For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, 'SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, #35 UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET'" #36 "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ--- this Jesus whom you have crucified." #37 Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do?" #38 Peter said to them, "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. #39 "For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself"
#40 And in many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation!" **#41** So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and that day there were added about three thousand souls. **#41** They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.
 'That is an excellent spot to stop for tonight, and begin a condensed review of what this entire study is about later on next week; How are you doing with the meal for tomorrow's bible study?.' said Student. "Everything that can be done for today is ready, I'll have to begin a little earlier tomorrow to make it on time, if we are going to be the greeters." said Sweetie. "No problem with me, I always look forward to spending a few moments with every one who comes through the doors, we don't want to miss out on that." Said Student. 'Are you about ready for bed Sweet Heart?' said Student. "Go ahead, give me a kiss, I'll be there in a few
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minutes, love you Student, sleep well." Said Sweetie. "Love you too Sweet Heart, see you in the morning."

'Hey!, this is the day, Sweet Heart, are you awake?' said Student. "Yes I have been laying here awake thinking about one of the biggest decisions we will ever make." said Sweetie. "Remember Sweetie, what I said before, this decision was set in place, when we independently asked Teacher, "can you discern in me that I at this time, am prepared to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?." "I do remember, I can't believe it took me almost a full year of seeing a change in you, and that day with tears in your eyes, you said to me, 'Sweet Heart, I can't bear any more the thought of the here after, with out you with me, will you begin a bible study with Teacher?, I said yes." said Sweetie. "That's as close as it gets Sweet Heart, You soon understood the meaning of repentance, [which is **a change of mind, heart and actions j Acts 2:38** Peter said to them, "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. **[NOTICE THE WORDS EACH OF YOU!! NO OTHER CAN DO THIS FOR YOU I** When looking for the very first, clearly defined, definition of the act of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. **[LOOK TO WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT IT IN ACTs 2:381**

'Look at who's preaching now Student, we don't want to keep the Preacher waiting.' said Sweetie. "Right, I'll grab the brownies and bibles, we can't

afford to drop them.” said Student. “Please hold the door, I have both hands full with this dish, it will have to go into the oven at church to be ready for bible study, and lets not forget and leave church with a main dish still in the oven.” said Sweetie.

‘That was a good sermon Student, it’s amazing what one receives from the word since receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ said Sweetie. “Right, a little over a year ago, most of what we just heard and read today would have gone over my head, the scriptures have never changed, thank God we have learned to dig and search for their meanings.” said Student. “That drive way is going to be like ice, we should have brought our ice cleats Student. “Don’t worry Sweet Heart, Preacher will give us a hand, I just pray that after we have been gone a while, He still cares to be our friends.” said Student. “Were getting close to their drive way, it appears they have saved us an good spot to reach the house.” said Sweetie.

‘Hey Preacher, I didn’t get a chance to tell you at church,’ “Good job, and thanks for giving us a hand getting this food and us into the house.” said Student. “Glad to.” said Preacher. “Have you been down the highway and to your cabin lately?, I believe I mentioned before all the small groups of elk we saw, just getting to the cut across, and then the large herds after we turned east toward your cabin.” said Student. “We haven’t been over there lately, but I believe we did talk about the

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elk, we better get into this food, would you gather the people around, so we may ask for a blessing on itsaid Preacher.

‘That was an excellent meal Sweetie, the bad thing about it is, there seldom is any thing left of what ever you prepare, here let me get the car door open for you.’ said Student. “As usual, we are about the last to leave, was there any indication that they might suspect we won’t be back to church.” said Sweetie. “None I’m aware of, however it was so warm in there today, I actually drifted off a couple of times, which could have been noticed by Preacher, there may be others that may soon wonder where we are, Preacher probably had it figured out away before now.” said Student. “I hope you are not going to get back to your study today.” said Sweetie.”No, it’s about complete, I’m finishing it up with a review of scripture I have been able to remember having quoted before, this has been a real learning experience for me, here’s the key for the house Sweet Heart, I can carry the two food dishes if you will bring the bibles.” said Student.

‘Were you able to get a good nights rest Sweet Heart?, with our new church in town, we are going to be - more busy in activities we may have not even

dreamed of before, actually not so much for you, your loving heart will fit right in, just as it always has in every other location you happen to find yourself in.’ said Student. “If this church is any thing like the one across the mountains, you also very soon, will find yourself speaking in front of this one in town.” said Sweetie.” “That will be interesting, remember several weeks ago at Preacher’s home, He commented, ‘If He allowed me to be in the pulpit, in four weeks the place would be empty, then He smoothed it out a little by commenting his wife could get the job done in three weeks.” said Student.

‘I have been thinking over and over about yesterday’s bible study, and how in so many ways it corresponded to one several months ago, and I can’t remember at who’s home we were in.’ said Student. “Tell me more, what I remember is the decision was made for us, when we were each baptized to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, we must move.” said Sweetie. “That’s exactly what I am about to ask you now, do you remember that day, a few months ago, when some where in their bible study the word, ‘Predestination’ came up, and that fellow, what’s his name, you remember, they live out by the lake?, seemed to become quite distraught.” said Student. “I sure do, they have not been back, even to the church, you mentioned one time that you had spoken to Preacher about them and was told, they seemed to be dissatisfied with the direction Preacher was taking the class.” said Sweetie. “This study has not mentioned the word Predestination to this point, you might say we have been saving it until this review,” said Student. “Did I hear you mention you would be gone for a short time?.” said Sweetie. “Yes I’ll be back soon, but first I need to write down some notes, which I don’t want to forget”. said Student.

‘7?

‘That didn’t take long Student, are you going to be in the office for a while, or take care of a few chores?.’ said Sweetie. “I said earlier, I had been saving the study concerning the meaning of predestination to about now, actually, I had totally forgotten it until I began comparing our leaving yesterday, with that couple, weren’t they from some where around Dayton?.’ said Student, “Yes they are, but did I tell you she actually taught the last bible study I attended, before I began studying in town with Teacher?.” “Yes you did mention that quite a while ago that she was a stand in for the regular lady, during a one week absence; I had better get started on the plan of predestination, Sweet Heart, I love you.” said Student. “Love you to Student.”

It appears when asked about the plan of predestination, most people would

say that God knows the exact path each of us will choose before hand, then at this point, when they consider their interpretation of the word predestined, their first thought that comes to mind is that God has already picked or chosen those that will be with Him forever. In God's own unique way He gives each individual an opportunity for absolute control over their destiny, however, each individual must obey a complete set of guide lines, written and repeated in most cases, several times throughout the Scriptures. There may also be other verses containing the word predestined, for a *beginning* one might study **Acts 4:28, Rom 8: 28 -30, Cor 2:7, Eph 1:5 and Eph 1:11.** To better understand their meaning, which never changes, **Rom 8: 28-30** would be the best choice for a beginning. vs 28 *And we all know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who were called to His purpose. v29 For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the first born of many brethren; vs 30 And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these He justified, He glorified.*

The question now arises, 'how can one be assured that God foreknew them?.' The truth is that each and every one are predestined for eternity with God, or predestined to be separated from God for eternity, but we each make the choice. At this point in this discussion the few who God foreknew, would be with God for all eternity, the many others who do not take the opportunity to understand predestination, will be separated from God through out eternity

Other verses in scripture that will help are. **Gal 8: 27** *For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves in Christ. Mat 7: 13-14 "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. vs 14 "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

So

Mat 7: 21 -23 *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord, will enter the Kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. vs 22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' vs 23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.*

Wow!, that was close, the message of predestination is a must know,

paramount for each of us to understanding our position with God. In my forgetfulness, I had actually not even considered it until last night, while going over what had occurred yesterday at bible study with Preacher. No thanks to me, the message was suddenly absolutely clear last night, with His timing which could not have been more precise.

I had better begin here with this review, it was in these following scriptures, very early on, where I quickly and fortunately figured out the significance of John the Baptist's, baptism for repentance in those days, in the Jordan river.

Mat 3:1-17 *Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, vs 2 "Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is a hand." vs 3 For this is the one [one in this case is John I referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!"]**

vs 4 Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. vs 5 Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and the district around the Jordan; vs 6 and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins vs 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vzers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? vs 8 "Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance; [meaning, show me your repentance first I vs 9 and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have a dam for our father; for I say to you that from these stones God is able to raise up children to Abraham. vs 10 "The axe is already laid at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. vs 11 "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. [the fire in this case is the unquenchable fire, referred to in verse 12 1 vs 12 "His Winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. ' [Is there one among us that does not get the full meaning of verse 11 and verse 12?.]

Mat 3: 13 *Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. vs 14 But John tried to prevent Him saying, "I have need to be baptized by You, and do You come to me?" vs 15 But Jesus Answering said to him, "Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he permitted Him. vs 16 After being*

baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, he [John J saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on, Him, vs 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

If I remember correctly, the **Testimony of John** Has not been included in any part of this study before. This is the perfect location to insert **Jhn 1:19-34 vs 19** *This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" vs 20 And he confessed and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." vs 21 They asked him, "What then? Are you Elah?" And He said, "Jam not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." vs 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" vs 23 He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD, 'as Isaiah the prophet said." vs 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. vs 25 They asked him, and said to him, "Why are you baptizing, you are not the Christ, nor Efljah, nor the Prophet?" vs 26 John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One Whom you do not know. vs 27 It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." vs 28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. #29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! vs 30 "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' vs 31 "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested [manifested means, readily perceived by the eye or the under standing, or to make clear to the eye. J to Israel, I came baptizing in water." vs 32 John test Wed saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He [the Spirit J remained on Him. vs 33 I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' vs 34 "I myself have seen, and have test Wed that this is the Son of God."*

Before we go any further, I must repeat some statements made by me several

pages earlier regarding John the Baptist. These statements, would most likely draw many responses to the contrary, if this paper were to be read by others. Mat 3:

11 *"As for me. I baptize you with water for repentance but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and Jam not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit andfire. One must understand that*

John's baptism for repentance, even though never designed to include the gift of the Holy Spirit is a must lesson to learn, [and designed by God] which parallels and corresponds with **1kb 8:5** *who serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly things, just as Moses was WA Ri El by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "SEE," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE all things ACCORDING TO TILE PATTERRJJ WHICH WAS SHOWN ON THE MOUNTAIN."* Here we need to go back to **Mat 3:1-3, vs 1** *Now in those days John came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, vs 2 "Repent for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand." vs 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, 'TIE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!'"* [It seems obvious here that the statement, "M4KE HIS PATHS STRAJGHT" could only mean 'NO ROAD BLOCKS by others in the attempts to distort or alter the scriptures. I And again parallels **Reb 8:5** *who serve a copy and shadow of heavenly things, just as Moses was warned by God when he was about to erect the tabernacle; for, "See," He says, "THAT YOU MAKE ACCORDING TO THE PA 7TERN WHiCH WAS SHOWN YOU ON THE MOUNTAIN"* And **now Act 2:36-38** *"Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ---- this Jesus whom you crucified." vs 37 Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren what shall we do?" vs 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Now the verse **Act 2:38** Is the very first of God's commandments spoken on the day of Pentecost, by the apostle Peter and corresponds with the fact that the baptism of John for repentance for the remission of sins, was designed to act as a copy leading to Act 2:38 If this were not so, would there be any reason for the birth of John the Baptist or his teaching the baptism of repentance at that precise time and place?. Remember the Holy Spirit was not given during the times of John's baptism for repentance. **Jhn 7:37-39** *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast. Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. " vs 38 "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water. " vs 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who**

I. Paul's conversion, #1, An account by Paul Himself, in his defense before the Jews. Acts 22: 1- 16 *"Brethren and fathers, hear my defense which I now offer to you. #2. And when they heard he was addressing them in the Hebrew dialect, they became even more quite; and he said, #3 "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city, educated under Gamaliel, strictly according to the law of our fathers, being zealous for our **God** just as you are today. #4 "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, #5 As also the high priest and all the council of the elders can test⁵'. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off to Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished. #6 "But it happened that as I was on my way, approaching Damascus about noontime, a very bright light suddenly flashed from heaven all around me, #7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting **Me?**' #8 And I answered, 'Who are you, **Lord?**' And **He** said to me, **I Am Jesus the Nazarene**, whom you are persecuting.' #9 "And those who were with me saw the light, to be sure, but did not understand the voice of the **One** who was speaking to me. #10 "And I said, 'What should I do, **Lord**?' "And the **Lord** said to me, 'Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told of all that has been appointed for you to do.' #11 "But since I could not see because of the brightness of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came to Damascus #12 A certain Ananias, a man who was devout by the standard of the law, and well spoken of by all the Jews who lived there, #13 came to me and standing near said to me, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight I' and at that very time I looked up at him. # 14 And he said, 'The **God** of our fathers has appointed you to know **His** will and to see the Righteous **One** and to hear an utterance from **His** Mouth. # 15. 'For you to be a witness for **Him** to all men of what you have seen and heard. #16. 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'*

I. Acts 9: 9 - 11, Three days in Damascus, fits between Acts 22: 11 ---12,

*#9 And he was there three days with out sight, and neither ate nor drank.
#10 Now there was a disciple named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananius." And he said. "Here lam Lord." # 11. And the Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for a man from Tarsus named Saul, for he is praying,*

You need some instruction, sit down here and open your bible to **Luke 11 13.** ‘OK I have Luke 11:13, and you want me to read it now.’ “If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?” ‘Good, as you are coming up out of the water, you must ask the ‘Father for the gift of Holy Spirit under the water,’ I will be waiting for a squeeze of your hand, when you are ready to come back up. There is another scripture which you have memorized, that you will recite to the Lord right after you go under the water, let’s hear it now.’ ‘OK, Teacher ‘Good job Student, now don’t forget to ask for the **Holy Spirit on your way up**, because at this point you will have just been cleansed *for the forgiveness of your sins,*’ clearing the way for the Holy Spirit to reside within you,’ said Teacher.

PSA 3:7 -12 #7 “I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. #8 ‘Ask of Me, and I will surely give the nations as Your inheritance, And the very ends of the earth as Your possession. #9 ‘You shall break them with a rod of iron, You shall shatter them like earthenware.’ “ #10 Now therefore, O kings, show discernment; Take warning, O judges of the earth. #11 Worship the Lord with reverence and rejoice with trembling.
13

PSA 3:12 Do homage to the Son, that lie not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge In Him!

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but lets throw in another two scriptures before we go any farther. How about **Pet 3: 20-21** These also are perfect examples of **‘WHO IS TAKEN AWAY BY WATER, AND WHO WILL BE SAVED BY BAPTISM IN WATER. 1St Pet 3:20 Who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in**

which a few, that is, [eight persons, were brought safely through the water.]
'5

1st Pet 3: 21 *Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you----not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to **God** for a good conscience--through the resurrection of **Jesus Christ**.* [The word 'Corresponding in all cases means to be in agreement, or conform, to match.' Now the question some are raising is, 'corresponding with what.?' Go back to Pet 3:20 where the #20 verse explains, eight persons were brought safely through thg water. 'They were saved through the water.' Now look again at, **1st Pet 3: 21** Where the words of **God** Can only mean, 'Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you. Would any one of us now dare to say, 'We are not saved by baptism?.'

Page 30 so what?, there probably will never be any other than Teacher looking at what is written here, He can understand and dig though all mistakes.'

“#12 And they continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying on to another, “What does this mean?” #13 But others were mocking and saying, “They are full of sweet wine,” #14 But Peter taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you and give heed to my words. #15 “For the men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day, #16 but this is what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: #17 ‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAY,’ GOD SAYS, ‘THAT I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS; #18 EVEN ON MY BONDSLAVES, BOTH MEN AND WOMAN, I WILL IN THOSE DAYS POUR FORTH MY SPIRIT AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY. #19 ‘AND I WILL GRANT WONDERS IN THE SKY ABOVE AND SIGNS ON THE EARTH BELOW, BLOOD, AND FIRE, AND VAPOR OF SMOKE. #20 ‘THE SUN WILL BE TURNED INTO DARKNESS AND THE MOON INTO BLOOD, BEFORE THAT GREAT AND GLORIOUS DAY OF THE LORD SHALL COME. #21 ‘AND IT SHALL BE THAT EVERYONE WHO CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED

Eph 4:4-6 *There is one [body] and one [Spirit j just as also you were called in one [hope j of your calling; #5 one [Lord] one [faith I one [baptism 1 #6 one [God the Father J of all who is over all and through all and in all. ‘Now, what’s next?.’ said Student.*

. Jhn 3: 3 -3 *Jesus answered and said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God”.* Jhn 3:3 -5 *Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of the water and the Spirit he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.*

at which time she has also begun asking the Heavenly Father for the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. **Luke 11: 13** *“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”*