

News and Notes

Services of the Church

Sunday

Bible Classes (for all ages) . . . . .9:30 am  
Morning Worship . . . . .10:20 am  
Evening Worship . . . . . 6:30 pm

Wednesday

Bible Classes (for all ages) . . . . .7:30 pm  
(Singing the last Wednesday of the month)

Preacher: Mark Legendre  
150 Yupon  
Phone: Res. 769-0401  
Phone: Building: 769-3497

Website:  
<http://www.northmainchurchofchrist.com>

Email:  
[nmcoc@northmainchurchofchrist.com](mailto:nmcoc@northmainchurchofchrist.com)

Elders

Ronnie Smith  
Mark Legendre  
Ted Gatza

Deacons

Chris Armstrong  
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CHURCH OF CHRIST  
1460 North Main  
Vidor, TX 77662

# The Reflector

Published In The Interest Of New Testament Christianity  
By the  
North Main Church of Christ  
1460 North Main  
Vidor, TX 77662

Volume 42

MAY 2006

Number 5

## DOES WATER WASH AWAY LEPROSY?

There is a man that we read about in 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:1-14 by the name of Naaman. He was the captain of the army of the king of Syria. But Naaman also had leprosy. He was given instructions by the servant of the prophet Elisha to **“dip in the Jordan River 7 times”** and his leprosy would disappear. He was angry at these instructions for a moment, but later did as the prophet Elisha had said. When he came up for the seventh time out of the Jordan River, his leprosy went away. Was there something special about that water that made his leprosy go away? Of course not, it was the fact that he had **“obeyed the instructions given him by the prophet of God.”** It was God who removed his leprosy when he obeyed God’s command.

In the same way today our sins are **“washed away by the blood of Jesus when we obey the command to be baptized into His death.”** (Romans 6:3-4/Acts 22:16) It is not the water that washes away our sins, but rather the blood of Jesus. God forgives us of our sins when we obey His command to be **“baptized for the remission of our sins”** according to Acts 2:38. **“WASH AND BE CLEAN!”** It worked for Naaman and it will work for you today!

## **ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:**

Eli is the name of the priest who had two sons who made themselves vile before God. Their names were Hophni and Phinehas and they lost their lives in battle with the Philistines.

(1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2-4)

The name of the man who worked for Candace the queen of Ethiopia is not given. He is however often referred to simply as the Ethiopian eunuch. He had traveled to Jerusalem to worship God. On his way home he met a Christian by the name of Philip who taught him the gospel of Christ and then baptized him into Christ for the remission of his sins. Acts 8:26-40)

## **QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:**

What was the name of Sarah's handmaid that had a child by Abraham? (What was the name of that child? And what good thing later happened with Abraham and Sarah by the power of God?)

What child of Jacob did his brother's sell into slavery? (Where did that child end up at and how did it turn out to be a blessing for Jacob and his family?)

## **AN AMAZING STORY!**

In Numbers 15:32-36 we read an amazing story. It is amazing because it is so hard to believe what happened on this occasion. A man was found picking up sticks on the Sabbath day and he was stoned to death for this act. People today would say that this was crazy for God having this man executed because he was picking up sticks, even though God had given Israel the command not to work on the Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11). But how else could God make Israel understand that He was serious about them not working on the Sabbath day? **A LESSON LEARNED THE HARD WAY!**

## **TEMPTATION!**

Every man or woman, young man or young woman, is tempted often, but most of the time we do not think of it as a temptation. Anything that ever presents a choice of right or wrong is a temptation, no matter how large or small that thing might be.

Temptations test (prove us) and we should consider every temptation as a test. Every time we are tempted and are overcome by the temptation we become weaker. But when we win or overcome the temptation we become stronger. The next time we are faced with the same temptation or one like it, it becomes easier to overcome. But, there are times when we are weaker; therefore we must always be on guard. It is never a safe thing to be tempted, thus we should develop self-control and especially should we control our thoughts. As long as we think clean thoughts and do good deeds, temptation will have no bad effect upon us. Whereas, on the other hand, if we allow our minds to wander and do not control all of our thoughts, the first thing we know, we will think bad thoughts. And if we do not change our thinking, we will be doing bad things. Every sin that a person is guilty of was first in his/her thoughts. So let us watch our thoughts.

The idea of "just once" is a dangerous thought when we are tempted. This is all that the devil wants of us: to do some evil thing just once. If we are not careful, we will do it again and again. We cannot afford to play with temptations.

One of the hardest things for anyone to do is to keep from being tempted. It is better to flee temptation than to fight against it. The best way to overcome temptation is to run from it.

Let us look at two Bible characters that were tempted and see how they were affected. First, Eve was tempted and she did not run from it. As the result she was overcome by it, which led to her being cast out from the garden.

Moses was tempted. He could enjoy the riches of the Egyptian kingdom and live in the palace of the king, but he ran away from them and chose rather to obey God and be with the people of God.

Sin, before it is done looks pretty and sweet. But after it is done, it is filthy and dirty. So, before we act, consider not only the present, but also the future.

Jack Thompson