

INTRODUCTION - anytime one becomes a member of a group or organization, they acquire an obligation to make it succeed, and if they don't, they contribute to its failure.

1. IN REVIEW, HOW DID I BECOME A CHRISTIAN?

Among the last words of Jesus are these:

(Matthew 28:18-20) “ ... Go therefore and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing them ... teaching them** to observe all things that I have commanded you ... “

(Luke 24:46-47) “ ... and that **repentance and remissions of sins** should be preached in His name to all nations beginning at Jerusalem.”

(text) (v37) “Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, ... **What shall we do?** Peter said to them, **Repent, and let every one of you be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

(v41) “Then those who gladly received his word were baptized ... “

(1 Peter 1:22-23) “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth ... having been born again ... through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”

2. SOME IMMEDIATE BLESSINGS IN “OBEYING THE TRUTH”

- 1) (Acts 2:38) “ ... for the **remission of sins**”
- 2) (Acts 2:38) “ ... and you shall receive the **gift of the Holy Spirit**”
Note: (Acts 5:32; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Ephesians 1:13-14)
- 3) (Ephesians 1:3) “blessed us with **every spiritual blessing** ... in Christ”
- 4) (Galatians 3:27) “ ... were baptized into Christ, have **put on Christ**.”
- 5) (2 Corinthians 5:17) “ ... in Christ, he is a **new creation** ... “
- 6) (Romans 6:4) “we were buried with Him through baptism ... **walk in newness of life**”
- 7) (Titus 3:7) “having been justified ... become heirs ... **the hope of eternal life**”

3. NOW, WHAT DOES CHRISTIAN LIVING LOOK LIKE?

- 1) **Grow** - (1 Peter 2:2) “as newborn babes, ... grow ... “ and (2 Peter 3:18).
- 2) **Bible study** - (2 Timothy 2:15; Matthew 28:19-20)
- 3) **Be faithful** - (1 Corinthians 4:2; Revelation 2:10)
- 4) **Seek God first** - (Matthew 6:33; Colossians 3:1-3)
- 5) **Pray** - (1 Thessalonians 5:17) “Pray without ceasing”