



“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you...” Matthew 28:20

Church of Christ • 13800 S. 4080 Road • P.O. Box 527 • Oologah, Oklahoma 74053

## “This Man Receiveth Sinners”

Chuck Northrop

One of the charges the Jews made against Jesus was He received sinners. Because this charge was made at the beginning of the His earthly ministry (Matthew 9:10) and toward the end of His work on earth (Luke 15:2), then it was most likely an accusation made against Him throughout His labors in this life. Because of the hope Jesus provided, the publicans and sinners were drawn to Him to hear His message of salvation and deliverance. The publicans were tax collectors of the Roman government and were considered traitors by the Jews. The sinners were individuals who did not observe the traditions of the Jewish elders. The Pharisees considered all that the publicans and sinners did was unclean which made anyone who ate with them unclean including Jesus.

At the beginning when the Pharisees made the charge against Jesus, He answered them, “They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick” (Matthew 9:10-13). In Luke 15, Jesus answered the charge with three parables: the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost sons. In each parable Jesus taught the earnest desire of God to offer redemption to all men. No doubt, the saving message of redemption was what attracted the publicans and sinners to hear Jesus. This same gospel message ought to draw all men everywhere to hear God’s plan of redemption through the blood of Jesus the Christ.

**Jesus receives sinners who believe His teachings and who believe He is the Son of God.** To be sure, there is a vast difference between believing in Christ and believing Christ. The Jews of the first century believed in Christ; that is, they believed the scriptures prophesied the Messiah’s coming. This is the very point Jesus made when He declared, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39). However, many of the Jews did not believe Jesus even though His miracles testified and confirmed He is the Christ, the Son of God. It is one thing to believe in the Christ of the gospel records, but it is altogether another thing to believe what Jesus taught and all that Jesus taught. Dear reader, do you believe Jesus? If so, then please act accordingly.

**Jesus receives sinners whose belief leads them to repentance.** After Jesus’ statement concerning the sick needing a physician, He said, “But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance” (Matthew 9:13). It is always better to live righteously than to live in sin and seek mercy through sacrifices. Instead, when an honest person is convicted of sins, he or she will seek forgiveness by having a changed mind about sin which leads to a change of actions. Thus, repentance is a change of outlook and a change of lifestyle. Please notice there are two turnings in repentance: turning from sin and turning to God. Half of the turning is useless and will not provide the needed result. Let us be honest about sin, and let us determine not to continue in transgression.

**Jesus receives sinners who will declare their belief by confession.** In the “Limited Commission,” Jesus sent His disciples “to preach to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (Matthew 10:6). To prepare His disciples to go, Jesus declared, “Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 10:32-33). Confession is a verbal acknowledgment of what a person believes. When Jesus asked His disciples concerning what they believed about Him, “Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16). Peter made the great confession. What about you? Do you believe Jesus is the Son of God, and are you willing to confess your belief?

**Jesus receives sinners who will act upon their belief by being baptized.** To prepare Israel for the coming Messianic kingdom, John, Jesus, and His disciples preached, “Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 3:2; 4:17; 10:7). A part of this preparation was John’s baptism of repentance. “All the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem” were “baptized of him in the river of Jordan” (Mark 1:5). Please note: Those who heard and believed, repented and were baptized. After the crucifixion and death of Jesus, He arose from

the dead the third day. During His resurrection appearances, He gave the “Great Commission” to His disciples. Clearly baptism has a part in this commission (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16). Immersion and water were essential parts in baptism. However, the subjects and the authority changed. John’s baptism was for Israel in preparation for the coming kingdom of Christ. The baptism Jesus commissioned is for all men everywhere into the kingdom of Christ (John 3:5). Lamentably, many in the religious world reject the necessity of baptism. Evidently, they are like the Jews of old in that they believe in Christ but do not believe Christ. Instead, more people ought to be like the eunuch of Ethiopia who said, “See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?” (Acts 8:36). Which will you imitate: the Jews of old or the eunuch of Ethiopia?

Jesus’ plan of redemption is just the beginning. After a person’s sins are remitted, he or she must not continue in sin (Romans 6:1-2). “God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin” but after obeying “that form of doctrine,” you “were made free from sin” and “became the servants of righteousness” (Romans 6:17-18). Every redeemed person must not “cast away” their “confidence, which hath great recompence of reward” (Hebrews 10:35).

When you become a child of God, you must continue in belief and in obedience because you “are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (1 Corinthians 6:19). Jesus paid the price! He suffered for your redemption. Will you not receive the adoption of children and the blessings associated with it? Jesus stands at the door and knocks. Will you let Him in? “The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). All of us ought to be thankful for the patience of God, but ultimately His patience will end. Will you be prepared?



**Interesting Quote from the forefathers of the United States:**  
“My Christian convictions may be formulated best in the language of the inspired apostle: ‘Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’” – James A. Garfield, twentieth President of the United States (Page 164; S.A. Northrop)

Observations and Concerns

November 9, 2022

**Welcome Visitors!** We are so thankful you decided to visit with us today.

“Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious” (Psalm 66:2).

**Expression of Gratitude:** This coming Lord’s day, the Lord’s church in Oologah will be having our thanksgiving dinner. We are thankful for the church and for the opportunity to be thankful with one another for God’s rich provisions. All are welcomed to stay.

The **monthly potluck** is this coming Sunday, November 13th. Please check the sign-up sheet in the foyer for the menu.

Our guest speaker for next Sunday, November 13, is **Dustin Pool**. He is a student at the Bible Institute of Missouri. Please be sure to make him feel welcomed.

Remember in Prayer:

- ▶ **Bill Dilks** is going through treatments for his cancer and is experiencing several difficult side effects.
- ▶ **Sammy Gray** had a defibrillator placed on Monday. His recovery is going well so far.
- ▶ **Vance and Darla Smith** are with their daughter, Sandra, in Beggs, Oklahoma.
- ▶ **Pat Taylor** was recently in the hospital in Claremore. She is home now.
- ▶ **Ed Dindy**, father of Tia Swearingen, has been diagnosed with cancer.
- ▶ **LeAnna Shafer’s** cancer has spread.
- ▶ **Michele Smith’s** younger brother passed away October 21. His funeral will be November 10 in Houston. He will be buried in a military cemetery.

| Schedule of Services       | Assignments             |                   |                    |                    |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
|                            |                         | Wednesday, Nov. 9 | Sunday, Nov. 13 AM | Sunday, Nov. 13 PM |
| Sundays                    |                         |                   |                    |                    |
| Bible Classes. . . 9:30 AM | Announcements           | Russ Earl         | Paul Praschnik     | Chris Nelson       |
| Worship . . . . . 10:30 AM | Song Leader             | Doyle Jackson     | Ross Swearingen    | Doyle Jackson      |
| Worship . . . . . 5:00 PM  | Prayer                  | Paul Praschnik    | Doyle Jackson      | Paul Praschnik     |
| Wednesdays                 | Lord’s Supper (speaker) |                   | Chuck Northrop     | Ross Swearingen    |
| Bible Classes. . . 7:00 PM | Lord’s Supper           |                   | Paul Praschnik     |                    |
| Website: oologahcofc.org   | Lesson                  | Chuck Northrop    | BIM - Dustin Pool  | Chuck Northrop     |
|                            | Prayer / Door Attendant | Chris Nelson      | Chris Nelson       | Russ Earl          |