

True Repentance

And Elimelech, Naomi's husband died... And Mahlon and Chilion died also, both of them: and the woman was left of her two sons and her husband. Then she arose with her daughters in law that she might return from the land of Moab: for she had heard in the country of Moab how that the LORD has visited his people in giving them bread. Wherefore she went forth from the place where she was and her two daughters in law with her; and they went on the way to return unto the land of Judah. (Ruth 1)

We have demonstrated in a previous article that the God of the Bible is the God of Noah's second son, Shem, the progenitor of the Semetic tribe. In the course of time God separated and called one man, Abraham, out of this line of people and promised to make of him a nation through whom all the peoples of the earth should be blessed. Of Abraham was born Isaac, and of Isaac, Jacob whose name was changed to Israel. These descendants of Abraham were then called Israelites when they entered the "promised land". This land of promise was called Canaan because it was inhabited by the descendants of Shem's nephew, the grandson of Noah who had been cursed to servitude. (Gen.9:25). After dispossessing and driving out the Canaanites, the promised land came to be called Israel, and its people, Israelites. The united kingdom, however, had a short life, splitting after Solomon's death, resulting in his son, Rehoboam, reigning over the tribes of Judah and Benjamin in the southern section, which was called "Judah" or "Judea". Jereboam, the son of Nebat was given the other ten tribes in the North, which was called Israel. In the fall of Samaria about 722 B.C., Israel was carried away into Assyrian captivity. These ten tribes' identities were then lost when they intermarried with other peoples. Only Judah remained identifiable. Hence, the visible presence of Abraham's descendants, the heirs of his promise, and the only ones left in the land, came to be known as Judah, or "Jews". That these are the bonafide descendants and heirs of the Abrahamic promise is confirmed in Jesus' declaration to the Samaritan woman, "Salvation is of the Jews" (John 5:22).

Every word of every book of the Bible was spoken or written by a Jew. Every Biblical prophet was a Jew. The disciples and evangelists of the New Testament were, to a man, Jews. The Lord, Himself, was born into this world a Jew. Anyone who is ever saved must be saved through the witness and testimony of a Jew. Now of these three women who were leaving Moab and going to Bethlehem, the House of Bread, the place ordained for He Who is the Living Bread to make His appearance, the only one who was a Jew was Naomi. The other two were pagans in redemptive darkness. If they were to have the gospel to be saved, it would have to be through the witness, the preaching of Naomi, the Jew.

So Naomi witnesses to her lost and widowed daughters in law: "Go, return each to her mother's house: the Lord deal kindly with you, as ye have dealt with the dead, and with me. The Lord grant you that you may find rest, each of you in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them; and they lifted up their voices, and wept. And they said unto her; "Surely we will return with thee unto thy people." And Naomi said, "Turn again, my daughters: why will ye go with me? Are there yet any more sons in my womb that they may be your husband?" They both then lifted up their voices and wept again. Orpah kissed her mother in law and returned to Moab. But Ruth cleaved to Naomi and refused to depart. Naomi again exhorts Ruth to leave her and go on back to her people and her gods. Ruth then makes that testimony and affirmation of fidelity, the beauty and glory of which has caused it to be drafted into millions of marriage vows: "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go: and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God, my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried: the LORD do so to me, and more also, if ought but death part me and thee". (Ruth 1:16-17)

This episode wonderfully and powerfully demonstrates the character of gospel repentance. Bankrupt modern evangelism, rich with clever sales and seduction tactics, has a massive problem with "conserving the results of evangelism", that is, of keeping its converts from backsliding and going back to the world. But a true gospel convert (one who has not been persuaded by some would-be soul winner, eager to hang another scalp on his belt) cannot be gotten rid of. In the first place, he has left Moab for good. There is nothing to go back to. All his past life is behind him. He may know nothing yet of his future life, but it will be whatever Christ has ordained for him. He knows nothing of the people with whom he will company, but whoever they are will be his people. Hypocrites, poor preaching, worldly churches... none of these can persuade him to turn away from the God of his salvation. The God of the Bible will be his God, and their God will be His God. The Christ of Calvary will be His Redeemer. The regenerated elect of God will be his family. Although he knows nothing of them until he is born again, he will immediately recognize that divine company to which he belongs. True repentance is real repentance. There is no turning back.

- C. M

GRACE BIBLE CAMP

681 Rock Hill Road, Bentley, LA 71407
 Thursday Evening, June 14 – Sunday Morning, June 17, 2006

Meals, dormitory lodging, RV Hookups . . . (No Charges). Bring linens if you wish dormitory lodging.

Note: Dormitory beds are limited. First come first served. Some must leave early, making more beds available on Saturday evening.

MOTELS**Pineville (About 14 miles from Camp):**

Sleep Inn & Suites	3411 Hwy. 165, Pineville	1-800-753-3746	www.choicehotels.com
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Alexandria (About 18 miles from Camp):

Comfort Inn	2001 N. Bolton Ave, Alexandria	1-318-484-9155	
Hampton Inn	2301 N. MacArthur Dr., Alexandria	1-318-487-8500	
Quality Inn	3010 MacArthur Dr., Alexandria	1-800-4CHOICE	www.choicehotels.com
Super 8 Motel	700 McArthur Drive, Alexandria	1-800-800-8000	

Alexandria, I-49 (About 21 miles from Camp):

La Quinta	6116 West Calhoun Drive, Alexandria	1-800-531-5900
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AGENDAThursday

7:00 P.M.	Barney Bryant	Carthage, TX
8:00 P.M.	Don Johnson	Batesville AR

Friday

9:00 A.M.	Jeffery Johnson	Conway, AR
10:00 A.M.	Walter Sanders	Arlington TX
3:30 PM	Questions & Discussion	
4:15: PM	Mack Tomlinson	Denton, TX
7:30 PM	Don Johnson	

Saturday

9:00 AM	Ken Murrell	Prospect, LA
10:00 AM	Gilbert Barr	Simmesport LA
3:30 PM	Questions & Discussion	
4:15 PM	Peter Hutchinson	Beaumont, TX
7:30 PM	Don Johnson	

Sunday

9:00 AM	Gary Gatch	Bentley, LA
10:00 AM	Don Johnson	
	Brunch and Adjourn	

Continental Breakfast in Dining Hall each morning	7:00 – 8:30 AM.
Group devotionals	8:30 AM
Brunch served	11:00 AM.
Dinner served	5:00 PM.
Group prayer meetings	one half hour before each evening meeting.

Grace Bible Camps are sponsored by Grace and Truth Enterprises in conjunction with Grace Church of Bentley and other sister churches in the region.

A cordial welcome to preachers, men, women, youth, children, whole families . . . any and all wishing to come aside for a few days of soul refreshing encouragement in the word of God and Christian fellowship.

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