

## Awareness

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- It seems as if every year around March/April/May, I have a problem with wasps
  - Wasps must be prevalent in the area near my home
  - It seems as if every year, I have to take care of at least 1 nest (usually near one of my doors) – as a reference, I had to get rid of 2 before the beginning of May
  - I remember the first year – they were nested under the wooden railing of my back deck right beside the steps
  - So I walked passed them numerous times before I realized they were there
  - This year (2025) – I was coming home from a Monday night meditation study in Hebrews
  - It was after dark and as I approached the door, something hit me in the face – didn't sting me
  - But as I opened the door and turned my porch light on – I discovered it was a wasp
  - And then about a month later, I had plans to cook on my grill
  - This one was very interesting, because I spent 20 minutes or so cleaning my grill before realizing there was a wasp nest in the hood of my grill – still did not get stung somehow
  - You would think that someone who has had so many wasp problems in the spring/summer time would be a little more vigilant for them during this time of year
  - But historically, I have not been
  - My awareness has been low – and if I don't fix that, there's a good chance I'm going to get stung at some point
- I've told you a story about how I have been unaware – now allow me to tell you a story of when I was aware
  - Several years ago, I was aware that I was living a life in which I had not been obedient to the gospel
  - I knew the gospel – I had heard it preached my entire life up to that point
  - And for a couple weeks, I was very aware of the fact that I had not responded to it – so I acted on it
  - And I was exceedingly glad because that night that I finally decided to act on it – so did my brother and my sister
  - I've never seen my parents so happy in their entire life
  - I could sleep easy again
  - I was aware that my life was not what it should have been, and I was aware of the consequences of that decision – and I acted
  - At the time, admittedly – I responded to the gospel more so out of fear of the consequences of not responding
  - I didn't want to be punished when I knew the way to avoid that punishment
  - But as I've gotten older, studied more, become more of a mature Christian – I can honestly say that I do not serve out of fear anymore
  - 1 John 4:19 – *"We love Him because He first loved us."*
  - 1 John 3:16 – *"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us..."*
    - Christ loved me enough to lay His life down for me

- So I think it's only logical for me to give my life to Him (Romans 12:1-2)
- Awareness is defined as *knowledge or perception of a situation or fact*
  - You may raise public awareness for a certain cause that you feel passionate about
  - But just like there is a difference between mere mental assent and Biblical belief (I can know that Jesus is the Christ, and that He died for me, but if I don't act upon that according to how the Bible tells me to, I'm no different than the demons – James 2), there is a difference between knowing facts about Christ and knowing Christ
  - For instance, I know that I have a bee problem at the start of spring each year, but I've never pre-emptively done anything about it
- So similar to my situation of unawareness followed by my situation of awareness, I want to discuss with you 4 Biblical situations of awareness and how these folks reacted
- **#1 – Sennacherib of Assyria (aware of who God was, but denied Him and wanted absolutely nothing to do with Him)**
  - 2 Kings 17:6 – *“In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria...”*
    - In approximately 720BC, Assyria did to Israel what Babylon would later do to Judah in 586BC and what Rome would later do to the Jews in 70AD
    - We read in 1 Kings 12 about how 10 of the tribes of the united Jewish nation seceded from Rehoboam and they would become known as Israel
    - The 2 tribes that did not secede (Judah and Benjamin) became known as Judah
    - This split occurred in approximately 930BC
    - So for 200 years – the nation of Israel did not have even 1 righteous king
    - How patient is God?
    - If you think of Samson and Delilah - how many chances did Samson give Delilah even though she was clearly against him (Judges 16)
      - First off, the fact that Delilah wanted to weaken him should have and likely did tip him off that this woman was up to no good
      - “Bind me with 7 bowstrings and I'll lose my strength” – Delilah does it
      - “Bind me with new ropes”
      - “Weave 7 locks of my head into the loom”
      - Again, Delilah performed these tasks
      - Samson loved Delilah (Judges 16:15) – but she clearly did not love him back
      - For 1100 pieces of silver multiplied by however many men made this deal with her, she betrayed Samson (Judges 16:5)
      - Christ was betrayed for 30 (a lot less)
      - And we may say “Samson – why did you put up with her through all of this?”
    - How many chances does God give us? How patient is He with us
      - 1 John 1:9 – *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*
    - God put up with Israel for 200 years
    - But He had seen enough – Jeremiah 3:8 tells us that God gave Israel her certificate of divorce in 2 Kings 17

- Hosea 13:16 – *“Samaria is held guilty, For she has rebelled against her God. They shall fall by the sword,...”*
- And He did this via the Assyrians
- 2 Kings 17:24-28
  - Assyria resettles the cities of Samaria
  - But of course, they were not faithful to God either
  - So He sends lions among them
  - In Daniel 6, God showed His power by closing the mouths of the lions
  - And in Revelation 5, He showed us His power via the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Jesus)
  - But here, he uses lions to bring about His wrath upon Assyria
  - Assyria was aware of God – they just did not fear Him
    - Later on, God would say the following of Sennacherib in 2 Kings 19:25 – *“Did you not hear long ago How I made it,...”*
    - Remember, the inhabitants of Jericho knew God as well and they were absolutely terrified
    - Joshua 2:9-11 – *“and said to the men: I know that the Lord has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are fainthearted because of you. **For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed. And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted; neither did there remain any more courage in anyone because of you, for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath.”***
    - They knew from history who God was – and the inhabitants of Jericho were about to find out much more directly
    - They knew that God parted the Red Sea for Israel when they came out of Egypt (Exodus 13 & 14)
    - So, imagine the chills that must have come upon them when they heard that God had dried the Jordan River for the Israelites to cross – just like He did the Red Sea (Joshua 3)
      - Joshua 5:1 – *“Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until we had crossed over, their hearts melted and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.”*
      - They must have been absolutely trembling with fear of God
      - And if you have not been obedient to God today – quite frankly, you ought to be trembling in fear as well
      - God is a righteous God – but He also displays wrath when necessary (Romans 11)

- Assyria knew who God was from history and from this lion incident, they had no further reason to not know God
- They had no excuse whatsoever
- Think of the parallels of that statement – you and I have no excuse whatsoever either
  - Acts 17:30 tells us that God does not tolerate ignorance
  - So, we nor anyone else can claim ignorance before God
  - And we have the completed word of God today – we have absolutely no excuse to be ignorant of Him
- If we know God, and we know the truth, and we know what we must do to receive His grace, and we don't do it – we are without excuse
  - Just like Assyria in this situation
- Unlike the inhabitants of Jericho though, Sennacherib was foolish – after all of this, he did not fear God
- After Assyria took Israel, sometime later they would also try to take Judah
- **2 Chronicles 32:9-15**
  - This was not the first time that Sennacherib spoke against God to Hezekiah concerning Jerusalem
  - The parallel account to this is 2 Kings 19:9-13
  - And before this threat, he sent at least 1 previous threat in 2 Kings 18:17-35
  - vs 10 (2 Chronicles 32) – *“In what do you trust, that you remain under siege in Jerusalem?”*
  - vs 11 – *“Has not Hezekiah given you false hope saying, ‘God will deliver us’”*
  - vs 14 – *“Who is this God that is going to stop me after He hasn't been able to stop me up to this point?”*
    - This of course, is the God who does not lie (Titus 1:2)
    - This is the God that loves us (1 John 3 & 4)
    - This is the God who wants no one to perish (2 Peter 3)
    - This is the God who can save us from eternal destruction (Romans 1:16)
    - And as a result, this is the God that you and I should fall on our knees and beg for the mercy that we don't deserve (Romans 14)
    - And Sennacherib – this is the God that is going to deliver Hezekiah, Jerusalem, and Judah from your hands
  - Sennacherib goes onto say in vs 13 – *“Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands?”*
    - Sennacherib was right to say that Assyria was a powerful empire at this time
    - At this time in world history, Assyria occupied a large chunk of the Middle East and even parts of Egypt – so you can see geographically why he'd want to go after Judah after he conquered Israel
    - But what he failed to realize was that the only reason that Assyria had any prominence whatsoever, was because God allowed them to

- Romans 13:1 – *“Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”*
  - There is simply no government currently in power, nor any government that has ever been in power historically that God has not appointed
- We read of 4 prominent empires in world history in the book of Daniel
  - Babylon, Persia, Greece (Alexandrian Greece), Rome
  - I’m no historian, but I would wager a guess that if you asked a historian what the 4 most powerful nations in the history of the world are, these 4 empires would likely be their list
  - And Daniel chapters 2, 7, and 8 teach us that God rose them up for whatever purpose He had for them, and then He humbled them when His purpose was executed
- Sennacherib simply did not realize this fact – or if he did, he simply refused to acknowledge it
  - Much like Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4
  - Daniel 4:30 – *“The king spoke, saying, ‘Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for a royal dwelling by my mighty power and for the honor of my majesty?’*
  - Look at me! Look at what a wonderful empire that I have built!
  - As Nebuchadnezzar was saying this, a voice from heaven told him in vs 32 that God rules over the kingdoms of men
  - And God has decided that this kingdom will depart from Nebuchadnezzar – and so it did
  - Everything that we have today is from the Lord (Ephesians 4:25)
  - As Christians, we must be grateful – humble ourselves and realize our earthly wealth is not by our own hands
  - Sennacherib had a similar attitude in his message to Hezekiah
- Sennacherib failed to realize that God describes a 5<sup>th</sup> kingdom amongst the other 4 kingdoms in Daniel 2
  - This kingdom is far more powerful than any of the first 4 will ever be though
  - It still stands strong today
  - It is the church of course
  - God’s kingdom is stronger than any earthly kingdom
  - Sennacherib would soon learn this
- How self-consumed must Sennacherib have been to say such words against God – he was simply caught up in the accomplishments of Assyria
  - We can learn from this that we must not get too caught up in our earthly accomplishments
  - This earth and everything in it is temporary

- Therefore, we must store up for ourselves treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:24)
  - Christ died on the cross, was buried, and arose
  - To serve God, we must also die, be buried, and arose
  - Luckily ours is symbolic through the watery grave of baptism though (Romans 6)
- Despite Sennacherib's warnings to Hezekiah and Judah – Hezekiah trusted in God
- 2 Chronicles 32:7-8
  - *"Be not dismayed what e'er betide, God will take care of you."*
  - Hezekiah encourages the people of Judah by saying that Assyria is not fighting them – their fight is with God
  - Assyria is simply strong physically, but God will fight our battles
  - There are more with us than are with them
    - A similar statement was made by Elisha in 2 Kings 6
    - The Syrian army surrounded the camp of Elisha in vs 8-17
    - And Elisha's servant became afraid
    - But Elisha prayed to God that He would open the eyes of his servant and he saw the nearby mountain full of chariots of fire all around them
    - God is greater than anything this earth has to offer – including armies
  - We know that God is in control, but sometimes we need reminded
  - Even Timothy needed a little bit of renewing in 2 Timothy
    - 2 Timothy 1:6 – *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands."*
    - Why would Timothy need to stir this up?
    - Quite simply – it was stalling out temporarily
    - And Paul writes many words of encouragement along with instructions to Timothy throughout the rest of the book
    - Timothy just needed a reminder of who he was – sometimes we do as well
  - Isaiah prophesied of the deliverance of Judah from Assyria in Isaiah 37:6-7
    - And despite Sennacherib's fear mongering and mocking of God, Isaiah was right – God delivered just as He said He would
    - God always delivers His people
    - In a world that was full of evil continually, God saved Noah and his family (Genesis 6)
    - He will save us as well
- 2 Kings 19:35-37 tells us that God sent an angel to destroy the Assyrian army before they could even attack Judah
- Not only that, but Sennacherib's pride towards God resulted in him receiving a shameful end to this life
  - He was put to the sword by his own sons
  - Sennacherib in all his might, with all the might of the Assyrian army – there was never a battle here to be had

- He knew the Lord, yet simply wanted nothing to do with Him and he paid the consequences for that decision
- I stand before you this evening telling you that we will do if we make these same foolish decisions that Sennacherib made
- **#2 – the Jews of the NT (they were aware of God, but they refused to accept Him)**
  - Matthew 27:25 – *“And all the people answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children.’”*
    - This is one of the most chilling statements in the Bible
    - During the ‘trial’ of Jesus, not only are the Jews saying that they want to be blamed directly for the death of the Son of God, but that they want this blood on the hands of their children as well
    - You don’t need me to tell you that when it comes to our physical families – as the mother and particularly the father of your family – it is on you to ensure the safety of your children to the best of your ability
    - These Jews in Matthew 27 did the exact opposite
    - Fortunately, God was thinking of these children
    - Acts 2:38-9 – *“Then 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. For the promise is to you **and to your children**, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’”*
    - I don’t know what God will say to these Jews who made this comment and were unrepentant of it on the day of judgment
    - All I know is that I do not want to be them
  - Matthew 13:22 – *“Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”*
  - These Jews were aware of God, but they simply refused Him
  - These Jews had an advantage over the Gentiles in the sense that God gave the scrolls to them
  - The Jewish/Gentile relationship is at the core of the book of Romans
    - Only in the gospel can men be justified – not the law of Moses
  - **Romans 3:1-4**
    - Did the Jews have an advantage over the Gentiles in the time of history that mankind was under the law of Moses?
    - Paul says certainly! (vs 2)
    - The scrolls were given to the Jews, not the Gentiles
    - Luke 12:48 – *“For to everyone whom much is given, from him much will be required.”*
      - Much was given to the Jews and much was required
      - But they refused to accept their Savior
    - There were still those in a state of unbelief despite the fact that they had the scrolls
    - Either there were some reports of this questioning that made it to Paul or the Holy Spirit through Paul was anticipating this argument – is there something

wrong with God's teaching? Were the scrolls hard to understand? Surely, one of these reasons is why we couldn't follow it

- Neither of these is an excuse (vs 3)
- And neither are these an excuse today
- This line of thinking would make God a liar – and that is simply not true
- God's law is perfect (Psalm 19)
- And the Jews had the scrolls containing His law
- And in it, we find the following prophecies that point directly to Jesus being the Christ
  - Micah 5:2 – the Christ would be born in Bethlehem
  - Hosea 11:1 – the Christ would be called out of Egypt
  - Isaiah 7:14 – the Christ would be born of a virgin
  - Isaiah 53 – the Christ would suffer for my sake
  - And so many more
  - If you are not aware tonight that Jesus is the Christ – don't believe me, read it for yourself
- The Jews refused to acknowledge that Jesus was the Christ despite all of this
- And this should come as no surprise that they didn't heed the voice of the prophets
  - They killed the prophets
  - Matthew 23:37 – *"O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!"*
- They were aware of the fact that Jesus was the Christ, He just didn't fit their picture of what the Christ was going to be
  - John 3:2 – *"Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."*
  - And they couldn't accept the fact that Jesus was stealing some of their followers and diminishing some of their political power
  - So they had to use false information from false witnesses to kill Him (Matthew 26:59-60)
- And they used Rome to do their dirty work
  - **Matthew 27:15-24**
    - The odd thing is that Rome knew that Jesus was innocent as well
    - Pilate knew that Jesus had done nothing deserving of death
    - It was out of envy that He was handed over to Rome
    - But he wasn't strong enough to stand up for Christ
    - Rather, he washed his hands clean of the Savior – he wanted nothing to do with Him
    - And in fear of word of a riot getting back to Caesar, Pilate gave Christ over to be crucified
- Not only were the Jews aware of Christ, and not only did they reject Him – but they killed Him
  - When He was gloriously resurrected, the Jews even had to fabricate a story to explain why His body was no longer in the tomb

- Death could not hold the King of Kings – the Jews knew this
    - Yet they were intentionally misleading (Matthew 28:11-15)
    - And how many souls have been lost because of this lie – I’m just wagering a guess here, but I have the feeling that there are still Jews today who believe this story that was fabricated
  - Isaiah 6:9 – *“Keep on hearing, but do not understand; Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.”*
    - The Jews heard, but didn’t hear
    - The Jews saw, but didn’t see
    - Because they chose not to
  - The Jews knew Jesus, but sadly refused Him
    - The sad thing is there are those today who still refuse Him – whether openly or by the fact that their actions do not show that they are living a life for Christ
    - And if you are one of those people, I plead with you to consider your ways
    - If we do not give our lives to Christ, we are just as guilty as the Jews that we read about in the NT
- **#3 – Saul/Paul (how he had a false sense of awareness of God, but was humble enough to allow himself to be corrected)**
  - Saul of Tarsus was a very zealous Pharisee (Acts 23:6)
    - Taught by the esteemed Gamaliel (Acts 22:3) – the same Gamaliel who presented very sound reason toward the apostles in Acts 5
    - And he advanced in Judaism as a Pharisee beyond many of his contemporaries (Galatians 1:14)
    - But Saul had a problem – he viewed God’s law as solely a rule book (which it certainly is to an extent – it contains the words of life)
    - The words that we must live by if we wish to receive the gift of eternal life
    - But that’s not all it is – it is also a message of love
    - A message of “you are lost in sin, but I (God) want to save you”
  - As a result of Saul’s/Paul’s misguidance, he did some deeds that he would later regret
    - Acts 8:3 – *“But Saul was ravaging the church...”*
      - Makes it seem as if Saul had the mind of a wild beast at this time
      - On the hunt for Christians as a wild beast would hunt for its next meal
    - 1 Timothy 1:15 – *“The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost.”*
    - Paul also says here that he is the chiefest of all sinners
    - Before his conversion, he was literally trying to destroy the church out of existence
      - Acts 9:1 – he was a murderer of Christians, earthly speaking – the Christians Saul had thrown into prison got off lucky
      - And the saddest thing of Saul/Paul when he was in this state, he did all of this in good conscience (Acts 23:1)
  - There are many people in this world who are very zealous in how they serve God

- The problem is many of them are misguided
- Their sense of awareness is a false sense of awareness
- And they react the same way that Saul/Paul did – usually not as violently, but they try to put the truth down for their idea of the truth
- Let's pray for these folks that for those who are diligently seeking the truth – they will find it
- There are things that I have done over the course of my life that I am ashamed of – I'm sure everyone in here would say the same thing
- But speaking from our earthly minds, if there was anyone that had a past worth forgetting, it was Saul of Tarsus
- But God didn't see that in him – he didn't see his awful past
- He saw the future worth finding in Saul of Tarsus
- And when Paul realized this on the road to Damascus and at the words of Ananias in Acts 9, he humbled himself
- He went from knowing facts about Christ – what he knew about Christ made him want to persecute the church, to knowing Christ
- And when you reach that point in your life, and you realize that you need to act on that as Paul did, there is no greater feeling of "I need to get this right, now"
  - Paul spent 3 days without food or drink – I vision him as being in a state of Godly sorrow that leads to repentance for these 3 days
  - And he realized that he needed to be baptized immediately (Acts 22:16)
  - You and I must come to this same realization as well
- Sometimes I wonder if Paul's thorn in the flesh was his inability to truly forgive himself of the things he did while in his past life (I base this largely off of Philippians 3)
  - I'm not saying that's what his thorn in the flesh was, I'm just saying that's a thought I've had
  - But regardless, God's grace was sufficient for Paul (2 Corinthians 12:9)
  - God's grace is sufficient for us as well, but we have to access that
  - We have to humble ourselves as Paul did – considering our previous endeavors rubbish, and strive for Christ
- The same Saul who used to persecute the church eventually became one of the greatest evangelists this world has ever seen
  - He wrote several letters of our NT
  - He loved the church despite all of the hardships he suffered physically because of it (2 Corinthians 11)
  - Acts 9:15-16 (Christ speaking with Ananias) – *"But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name's sake.'"*
  - And despite all of the sufferings, he boldly served Christ for the rest of his life
  - And I assure you he is glad that he endured through those sufferings now (2 Timothy 4)
- **#4 – Peter in Luke 5 (how he became aware of our Lord and reacted positively)**
  - Luke 5:1-5

- I want you to first notice that Peter knew a little bit about Jesus already
- It was Peter's boat that Jesus was teaching from
- Jesus was directing Peter in this instance – He told him to put out a little from land and Peter listened
- Not only this, Peter refers to Jesus as “*Master*” in vs 5
- So to use terminology that we've used previously in this lesson, Peter knew a few facts of Christ
- And Jesus trusted Peter enough to use his boat to perform his teaching
- Think back to John 1:35-42 for a moment
  - 2 of John's disciples heard him refer to Christ as the Lamb of God
  - 1 of John's disciples is revealed to us as Andrew, Peter's brother
  - Andrew brought Peter to Jesus saying “*We have found the Messiah.*”
- Just like Andrew brought Peter to Christ, you and I have the responsibility to bring others to Christ
- And they too can go from simply knowing facts about Christ to knowing Christ

#### ○ Luke 5:6-11

- After Peter witnesses this miracle of Christ, he has his lightbulb moment
- Andrew was right – this guy is the real deal
- He is the Messiah
- And he has the reaction that each and every one of us in this room had when we were baptized
- The same reaction I had all those years ago I told you about in our introduction
- Lord – you are perfect, you are the chosen Messiah and I am but a mere sinner
- I deserve absolutely no part of you
  - Isaiah had a similar realization in Isaiah 6
  - Vs 5 – “*So I said: 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.'"*
  - Proverbs 14:12 – “*There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.*”
  - God doesn't need us – He's going to triumph over Satan with or without us (Revelation 20:7-10)
- But the beautiful thing is that He wants you
  - If you remember from the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee in Luke 18, the Pharisee was very prideful and the tax collector was quite the opposite
  - He realized and admitted that he was a sinner who desperately needed God's mercy
  - And it was the tax collector that went home justified before God, not the Pharisee
  - The tax collector humbled himself because he knew that he could not be justified by his own merit – he needed God's mercy
- And when we are ready to humble ourselves just as the tax collector and Peter did in these instances, then you will cause much rejoicing in heaven (Luke 15)

- Peter did become a fisher of men
  - And it is a direct result of him devoting his life to Christ as we just read in Luke 5
  - Not only did he become a fisher of men, but he became an elder in Christ's church (1 Peter 5)
  - And not only did he become an elder, but he was killed for his devotion to Christ (John 21)
  - Matthew 16:25 – *“but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”*
  - Like Paul, the life that Peter found may have led to his physical death
  - But I guarantee that Peter is glad now that he made this wise decision to follow Christ
- In conclusion of these 4 examples of people being aware of Christ and God, and how they reacted to their awareness, I'd like to conclude with Romans 14
  - Romans 14:11 – *“As I live, says the Lord, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.”*
  - If you are within the sound of my voice today, and you weren't aware previously – then we will all bow our knees before God at some point
  - The better decision is to do so now of your own accord than to do so for the first time on the day of judgment
- The gospel plan of salvation is very simple and it will never change
- **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – *Romans 10:13-17*
  - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – *1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16*
- **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – *Mark 16:16*
- **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – *Romans 10:8-10*
- **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – *Luke 13:3*
  - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.
- **Step 5: Baptism into Christ** – *Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38*
  - Baptism: immerse or submerge
- **Step 6: Live faithfully** – *Revelation 2:10*