

“...AND NOT TO LEAVE THE OTHER UNDONE” (1)

By Keith Greer

“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done, without leaving the others undone.” {Matthew 23:23} Jesus is sternly rebuking the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. We, too, must be careful that we do not leave undone any of what God requires of us. **Alien sinners** need to...

Obey the gospel. *“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.’” {Acts 2:38}* Every alien sinner needs to hear and obey the gospel of Christ. Only obedience to the gospel can add a person to God’s family and give him hope for eternal life. All **MUST** obey the gospel!

Christians are to attend the church assemblies. *“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.” {Hebrews 10:25}* God’s children are commanded to assemble with the saints when the church comes together. It’s what the early church did {Acts 2:42}. When we obey this command, we *“provoke one another unto love and good works,”* {Hebrews 10:24}. We **MUST** attend!

All must develop a knowledge of the truth. *“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is.” {Ephesians 5:16,17}* Those outside the body of Christ need to know and understand God’s word. But knowing that truth and not acting upon it is vain and unprofitable. *“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart.” {1 Peter 1:22}* We **MUST** know the truth!

All must have our sins forgiven. *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace.” {Ephesians 1:7}* Sin is every soul’s enemy. It separates us from God {Isaiah 59:1,2}. Jesus died on the cross to provide all men the opportunity to be forgiven of their sins. Forgiveness is a **MUST!**

All must be morally pure. *“Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.” {1 Timothy 5:22}* Every immoral person must repent and leave that way of life if he or she wishes to please God. One cannot continue to engage in conduct the Lord deems sinful. Good morals are an absolute **MUST!**

Believers must begin a new life in Christ. *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.” {2 Corinthians 5:17}* When a person arises from the waters of baptism, he or she begins to *“walk in newness of life.”* {Romans 6:4} The one who was an alien sinner exchanges his condition – lost and alienated from God – for something new – baptism into Christ and putting on Christ. {Galatians 3:26,27} One **MUST** begin to live a new life!

We can all clearly see the essential quality of each of these acts that must be performed by alien sinners and Christians. Let us not forget the importance of having the good beginning that God requires.

I've said all this to remind you that conversion is not the end of the story – it's the beginning! All these steps are the initial steps for those outside the body of Christ.

Sadly, many who become Christians forget that they need to do some other things AFTER they obey the gospel. True conversion to the Lord must continue by living the life of that “**new creature.**” Remember, the old man is crucified (old man of sin) and replaced by the “new man” in Christ. The second article will examine the other side of the coin. ***