

Lessons from the Heart

Lost your head for God lately?

By Pastor Rex Charles

Matthew: 14:1-12

It can truly be said that John the Baptist lost his head over God's Words! He was the last pre-Christian martyr. The next to be martyred for God was Stephen, a Christian. I am a United Methodist. John was not a Methodist. He was a Baptist. Jesus was not a Methodist. He was a Nazarene. Paul was not a Methodist. He was a Christian. John Wesley was a Methodist, AND a Christian.

John was the first to use baptism in a vow of repentance. Baptism in a mainline denomination church doesn't automatically save you. It is a sacrament, and a sign that you're exposed to the message of salvation. You agree to

attend church, and be influenced by the church's message.

Church attendance doesn't automatically save you. While in church you are exposed to the message of salvation in songs, and the spoken word. You listen to great sermons, and not-so-great sermon jokes. Church attendance prepares you for membership in the church.

Church membership doesn't automatically save you, although you publicly confess your faith in Jesus Christ. That is the only way that you can be saved. Some people are church members for 70 years or more.

Being a member of a mainline denomination for 70



Charles

years or more doesn't automatically save you. Not even if you are a member of may boards, and serve on committees that do much good works...

Because doing good works doesn't automatically save you! Well, what does save you? Romans 10:9,10 says, "If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved! For a man believes within his heart, and so is justified; and he confesses with his lips, and so is saved."

John the Baptist literally lost his head for God. How do we know we are as committed to God as we need to be? Think of that one thing or an-

other that can come between you and doing that God thing. If a golf game comes up, do you follow that then attend a God event? Does an invitation to shop come before that Bible study? Would you rather hear from Jay Leno than what God says to you in nightly devotions? If these things, and others like them come between you and God, then God is only one of your special activities, NOT the highest priority in your life. And if He is not the #1 priority in your life, you will not be fully into the best plan He has for your life. And you will miss out.

Be fully committed to God. Let nothing come before your relationship in Him. Read Acts 4:31, and other verses of promise in the Bible. But re-

member Romans 10:9,10 because reading the Bible doesn't automatically save you.

Rex Charles is pastor at the Flora and Brighthurst United Methodist churches.

The Classifieds
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DIRECTORY OF AREA CHURCHES

SS=Sunday School	SW=Sunday Worship
AMERICAN UNION NON-DENOMINATIONAL: Larry Williams, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	FLORA FIRST BAPTIST: 115 W. Columbia Street, Flora. Interim pastors. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
BRINGHURST UNITED METHODIST: Rex Charles, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	FLORA FIRST BRETHREN: 115 N. Washington Street, Flora. Dan Herendeen, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
BROOKSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: 206 N. Prairie Street, Brookston. Ron Guzman, minister. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	FLORA FIRST CHRISTIAN (Disciples of Christ) S. Center Street, Flora. Sam Davenport, interim pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
BUCK CREEK UNITED METHODIST: 4915 Ferret St., Buck Creek. Dwight Monical, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.	FLORA GRACE BRETHREN: 103 S. Willow St., Flora. James Franklin, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m., Wed. Prayer Service: 7 p.m.
BURLINGTON FIRST BAPTIST: 205 W. 8th St., Rev. Dr. Peter Roussakis, pastor. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.	FLORA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 211 S. Center St., Flora. Charles Compton, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m.
BURLINGTON CHURCH OF CHRIST: Dave Osborne, Interim Pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study (Thur): 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	FLORA UNITED METHODIST: 107 E. Main Street, Flora. Rex Charles, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:15 a.m.
BURLINGTON UNITED METHODIST: Bonnie Shoaf, pastor. SS: 11:00 a.m., SW: 9:30 a.m.	FLORA VALLEY VIEW SOUTHERN BAPTIST: Route 2, Flora. Bill Godbey, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTVILLE FIRST BAPTIST: Second & Main, Burnettville. SW: 10:00 a.m., SS: 11:15 a.m.	GRACE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: 1101 Dreffers Ave., Delphi. Joe Whitehead, pastor. SS: 10 a.m. SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURNETTVILLE CHRISTIAN: Sixth & Washington, Burnettville. John Wright, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HICKORY GROVE CHURCH: CR 700 W., Jefferson Township, Ken Smith, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
BURNETTVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: First & Main, Burnettville. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.	HILLSIDE MISSIONARY BAPTIST: Hwy. 22, 2 miles E. of Burlington. Doyle Buckner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
BURROWS PRESBYTERIAN: SS: 11:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	IDAVILLE CHURCH OF GOD: 11073 E 50 N, Idaville. Chris Murphy, pastor. SW 8:30 & 10:30 a.m., SS: 9:30 a.m.
CALVARY CHAPEL CARROLL COUNTY: Wabash & Erie Canal Interpretive Center, Delphi. Eric Haley, pastor. SW: 10 a.m.	JUBILEE FELLOWSHIP: CR 50 N, Flora. Scott Gammell, pastor. SS: 9:00 a.m., SW: 10:00 a.m.
CAMDEN UNITED METHODIST: Dan Gottschalk, pastor. SS: 9 - 9:45 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.	LIVING FAITH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 310N 250W. Jeff Tomson, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
CLYMERS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: 4003 W 400S. Clymers Kevin Drane, pastor. SW: 10:30 a.m. SS: Same as worship.	LIVING STONE CHURCH: 54 Main St., Rossville. Sunday Services: 8:50-9:20 Coffee and Fellowship, 9:30 worship. Children's church available
COLBURN ROAD BAPTIST: Bill Cadle, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.	LOCKPORT NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH: East of Patton. Nord Zootman, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Sun. Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
COLBURN UNITED METHODIST: Kasey Schnepf, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10:20 a.m.	LOWER DEER CREEK CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: CR 300 N, SE of Camden. Guy Studebaker, pastor. SW 10:15 a.m., SS: 9:00 a.m.
CROSSROADS COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN: 3570 E 200S, Brighthurst, Dan C. Butcher, pastor. SW: 9:30 a.m. SS: 10:30 a.m. Youth group 6:30 p.m., Bible study Wed. 6:30 p.m.	OAK GROVE CHRISTIAN: 11810 N 900W, Monticello. Interim pastor, Rev. Ashli Cartwright-Peak. SW: 10 a.m.
CUTLER PRESBYTERIAN: Jeff Brown and Ann Bingham, lay pastors. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.	PINE GROVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH: Crooked Road, 1 mile E of Delphi. Justin Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m., SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
DEER CREEK UNITED PRESBYTERIAN: Highway 29 in Deer Creek. Dave Herron, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. SS; Adult 8:45a.m. & Children 10:00 a.m.	PITTSBURG MISSIONARY BAPTIST: John Wagner, pastor. SS: 10 a.m.; SW: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m. Bible Study: Thurs. 6:30 p.m.
DELPHI CHRISTIAN CHURCH: 315 E. Main St, Delphi. Rev. Andrew Paris, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m. Wed. Bible study: 7 p.m.	PLEASANT HILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5490 North SR 39, Frankfort. Donna Enerson, pastor. SS: 9:45 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. Everyone welcome.
DELPHI CHURCH OF CHRIST: 405 Cottage Street, Delphi. Sunday Bible study: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 & 5 p.m., Wed. Night 7 p.m.	PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DELPHI: Main & Indiana Streets, Delphi. Rev. Bill McLean. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:30 a.m.
DELPHI COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD: 321 W. Main Street, Delphi. Rev. Virgil Moss. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	PYRMONT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: Pastor. Howard Hendrickson. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:15 a.m.
DELPHI PENTECOSTAL: Hwy. 25 East, Delphi. Tim Stewart, pastor. Thurs. night Bible Study: 7:30p.m., SS: 12:45 p.m., SW: 2 p.m.	RADNOR CHURCH: Ed Selvidge, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
DELPHI UNITED METHODIST: Union & Monroe Streets, Delphi. SW: 8:45 & 11 a.m., SS: 10 a.m., Todd Ladd, pastor; Micah Hudson, youth pastor.	ROCKFIELD CHRISTIAN: Bob Cree, pastor. SW: 9 a.m., SS: 10 a.m.
DELRHI WESLEYAN: North Union Street, Delphi. Dan Fisher, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROCKFIELD PRESBYTERIAN: SW: 9:30 a.m.
EASTLAWN UNITED METHODIST: SR 24 & Logan Street, Idaville. Mark Gaylor, pastor. SS: 9 a.m.	ROSSVILLE BIBLE FELLOWSHIP: 16 Cason St.. Judd Dickey, pastor. Sunday Corporate Prayer: 9:00 a.m.; Fellowship 9:30 a.m.; SW 10:00 a.m.
FAITH CHURCH OF CHRIST: SR 29, Burlington. Steve Cole, minister. SW: 9:30 a.m. & 6 p.m. a.m., SS: 11 a.m., Wed. Bible study 7 p.m.	ROSSVILLE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN: 109 N. Plank Street, Rossville. Floyd Smith, pastor. SS: 9a.m., SW: 10 a.m.
FAITH LUTHERAN: CR 800 N, west of Hwy. 29. SS: 9 a.m., SW: 10:10 a.m.	ROSSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH: 5434 W State Rd 26, Rossville, IN. John Everitt, pastor. SS: 9 a.m., Fellowship: 9:45 a.m. SW: 10:15 a.m.
FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH: Hwys. 29 & 26, Middlefork. Jim Anderson, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ROSSVILLE UNITED METHODIST: Main & Gaddis Streets, Rossville. Rick Jones, pastor. SS: 9:15 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST APOSTOLIC CHURCH: U.S. 421 North, Tippecanoe Township. Gilbert R. Ingram, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. & 6 p.m.	SHARON AMERICAN BAPTIST: St. Rd. 29, Carrollton Township. James Lund, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD: US 421N., Pittsburg. Brent Oliver, pastor. SW: 9:30 am, Wed. Family Night: 6:30pm, Adult & Youth Services Sun. Evenings 6pm.	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC: 207 N. Washington Street, Delphi. Peter Vanderkolk, pastor. SW: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF CAMDEN: Paul Marcellino, inter-impastor. Tue. 9:30 a.m. Women's study, Wed. 6:30 p.m. WW. SW: 9:30 a.m., SS: 10:45 a.m., Sun. Youth Service 5:30 p.m. Sun. Bible study: 7:30 p.m.	ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH: 1301 S. Washington St., Delphi. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.
FIRST BAPTIST: Indiana & Franklin Streets, Delphi. William Glenn, pastor. SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m. & 6 p.m.	ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN: Church & Cumberland Sts., Camden, 2 blocks West & 1 block North of SR218 and SR75. SW: 8:30 a.m. SS: Same as Worship.
	WHIRLWIND MINISTRIES: 869 N. 90 E., Burrows, Greg Britt, pastor. SW: 10 a.m. (574) 652-2280
	YEOMAN UNITED METHODIST: Carl Davis, pastor, SS: 9:30 a.m., SW: 10:30 a.m.

FOCUS ON THE FAMILY

By Dr. James Dobson

Adopted children can present special challenges to parents

QUESTION: Are adopted children more likely to be rebellious than children born to biological parents? If so, are there any steps I can take to prevent or ease the conflict? My husband and I are thinking about adopting a toddler and the question has me worried.

DR. DOBSON: Every child is different and adopted kids are no exception. They come in all sorts of packages. Some boys and girls who were abused or unloved prior to the adoption will react to those painful experiences in some way ... usually negatively. Others, even those who were not mistreated, will struggle with identity problems and wonder why their "real" mothers and fathers didn't want them. They may be driven to find their biological parents during or after adolescence to learn more about their heritage and families of origin. I must emphasize, however, that many adopted kids do not go through any of these personal crises. They take root where they are replanted and never give a thought to the questions that trouble some of their peers. As with so many other behavioral issues, the critical factors are the particular temperament of the child and how he or she is handled by the parents.

I hope you won't be reluctant to adopt that child because some special problems might — but probably won't — develop. Every child has his or her own particular challenges. Every child can be difficult to raise. Every child requires all the creative energy and talent a parent can muster. But every child is also worth the effort, and there is

no higher calling than to do that job excellently.

Let me add one more thought. I knew a man and woman who had waited for years to adopt a baby. When a female infant was finally made available to them, they were anxious to know if she was healthy and of good heritage. They asked if her biological parents had used drugs, how tall they were, whether or not they had attended college, etc. Then, the father told me later, he realized what he and his wife were doing. They were approaching the adoption of this baby much as if they would have bought a used car. They were "kicking tires" and testing the engine.

But then they thought, "What in the world are we doing? That little girl is a human being with an eternal soul. We have been given the opportunity to mold and shape her as a child of God, and here we are demanding that she be a high quality



Dr. Dobson

product." They repented of their inappropriate attitudes and embraced that child in love.

Adopted children, like all children, are a blessing from God and we are privileged, indeed, to be granted the honor of raising one of His precious kids.

QUESTION: When it comes to education, you have said that the right factual information can and should lead to conceptual learning. But aren't you putting too much emphasis on the memorization process, which is a low academic goal?

DR. DOBSON: The human brain is capable of storing some two billion bits of information in the course

Pray for our nation to seek God

...and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love...Ephesians 3:17 Pd. Adv.

of a lifetime. There are many avenues through which that programming can occur, and memorization is one of them. Let me put it this way. If you ever have to go under a surgeon's knife, you'd better hope that the physician has memorized every muscle, every bone, every blood vessel and every Boy Scout knot in the book. Your life will depend on his accessibility to factual information during the operation.

Obviously, I strongly oppose the perspective held in some academic circles that says, "There's nothing we know for certain so why learn anything?" Those who feel that way have no business teaching. They are salesman with nothing to sell!

Send your questions to Dr. Dobson, c/o Focus on the Family, PO Box 444, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; or to his Web site at www.focus.org. These questions and answers are excerpted from books authored by Dr. James Dobson and published by Tyndale House Publishers. Dr. Dobson is the founder and chairman of the board of Focus on the Family, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of the home and Judeo-Christian values. Copyright 1997 James Dobson, Inc. All rights reserved. International copy secured.

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Special Guest Mike Adkins

He is an evangelist, author, singer and songwriter.
Featured on James Dobson's Focus on the Family."

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