

# CHURCH OF CHRIST GULF SHORES

Sunday Morning Sermon

November 27, 2016 (by Ray Reynolds)

## “Finishing Strong: reMEMBER What God Has Done”



Introduction: We are concluding studying a series of lessons on second chances entitled: “STARTING OVER.” One of the main points for this entire series is to remind us that God is the God of second chances. It would be difficult to close out this series without some final thoughts on baptism and the new life available for those in Christ. Let’s study together...

Discussion:

### **I. Remember the Steps to Starting Over**

- A. Reading the Scriptures for guidance is necessary (**John 17:17, II Timothy 3:16-17**).
- B. Hearing the gospel is necessary (**Acts 15:7, Romans 10:14, 17**).
- C. Believing in Jesus Christ is necessary (**John 8:24, Acts 4:12, Hebrews 11:1, 6**).
- D. Repenting of your sins is necessary (**Luke 13:3, 5, Acts 2:38, 3:19, 17:30**).
- E. Confessing Christ is necessary (**Matthew 10:32-33, Romans 10:9-10, Acts 8:37-38**).
- F. Baptizing into water is necessary (**Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 2:38-39, 10:48, 22:16, Colossians 2:11-12, Galatians 3:24-27, I Peter 3:21**).
- G. Faithfully serving God is necessary (**Romans 6:3-7, II Timothy 4:6-8, Revelation 2:10**).

### **II. Remember the Salvation Stories in Acts**

- A. Baptism of about 3,000 on Pentecost (**Acts 2**).
- B. Baptism of the Samaritans (**Acts 8**).
- C. Baptism of Simon the Magician (**Acts 8**).
- D. Baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch (**Acts 8**).
- E. Baptism of Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 9, 22, 26**).
- F. Baptism of Cornelius & his household (**Acts 10-11**).
- G. Baptism of Lydia (**Acts 16**).
- H. Baptism of the Philippian Jailor & his household (**Acts 16**).
- I. Baptism of Corinthians (**Acts 18**).
- J. Baptism of Ephesians (**Acts 19**).

### **III. Remember the Significance of Being Born Again**

- A. You are born again (**John 3:3,5, Romans 6:3-4, II Corinthians 5:17**).
- B. You obey Christ (**John 14:15, Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 10:48**).
- C. You are saved from sins (**Mark 16:15-16, I Peter 3:20-21**).
- D. You get added to the church of Christ (**Acts 2:37-47, I Corinthians 12:13**).
- E. You have remission of sins (**Acts 2:38, Luke 24:46-47**).
- F. Your sins are washed away (**Acts 22:16, Hebrews 9:22, 10:22, I Peter 3:21**).
- G. You get into Jesus Christ (**Romans 6:3-4, Galatians 3:27**).
- H. You walk in newness of life (**Romans 6:3-5, Colossians 3:1**).
- I. You put on Christ in baptism (**Galatians 3:26-27**).
- J. You become a child of God (**Galatians 3:26-27**).

#### **IV. Remember the Need to Finish Strong**

- A. *Jesus has called you to walk in the light (Matthew 5:16, I John 1:7).*
- B. *Jesus has called you to bear good fruit (John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23).*
- C. *Jesus has called you to be a member of His body (I Corinthians 12:27).*
- D. *Jesus has called you to be His disciple (Acts 6:1, 7, 11:26).*
- E. *Jesus has called you to be a faithful believer (Acts 5:14, II Corinthians 6:15).*
- F. *Jesus has called you to be a saint (Acts 9:13; Romans 1:7; Philippians 1:1).*
- G. *Jesus has called you to be a priest (I Peter 2:9; Revelation 1:6).*
- H. *Jesus has called you to be a child of God (Galatians 3:26-27, I John 3:1-2).*
- I. *Jesus has called you to be a Christian (Acts 11:26, 26:28, I Peter 4:16).*
- J. *Jesus has called you to teach what you know (Matthew 4:19, 28:20, Acts 1:8).*

Conclusion: God has done some mighty things! However, He's not finished with you yet. The stories we have considered over the past several weeks were not just meant to entertain. They were meant to inspire. They were meant to challenge us. This series was about second chances! Do you need a second chance? What have you learned from this series? Have you repented of your sins? Have you confessed those sins? Are you living in obedience? How's your faith? How's your Christian walk? Do you need to press the reset button? You're just a few steps away from starting over. Come to Jesus!