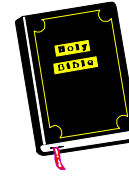


WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



"every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master." Luke 6:40b

Baptism: What it is and does.

Of all Biblical subjects, the most controversial is baptism. But it needn't be so if we understand what the Bible teaches regarding it. In this treatise, we intend to answer two questions from the Bible. The first is, "What is baptism?" and the second is, "What is the purpose of baptism."

Now, Jesus thought baptism was important, because he told the apostles to "*Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost,*" (Matt. 28:19). Friends, if Jesus thought enough of baptism to include it in his last words to the apostles, shouldn't we diligently search God's word to find out why he considered it so important?

What is baptism? Now, we aren't interested in what the world thinks, what you think or what I think. The important question is, "what does the Bible say baptism is?" If you were to ask some denominational preachers what baptism is, they would say it is a sprinkling or pouring of water on a person. Many denominations practice sprinkling and call it baptism. Is that what the Bible teaches? Let's study together and arrive at the Bible answer to our question.

The word "baptize," itself is a transliterated word. That simply means that the translators of the Bible didn't use an English word for the Greek *Baptizo*. They simply dropped the "o" from the end of the word and replaced it with an "e". Thus a Greek word became an English word with the alteration of only one letter. The definition of the Greek word "*baptizo*," from which we get "baptize" is "to dip or immerse" and James Strong's Greek Dictionary of the New Testament says it means "to make whelmed." The word "whelm" means to cover or immerse completely - so if the translators of the Bible had translated the word *baptizo* instead of transliterating it they would have used the word immerse. That's why baptism is called a burial by the apostle Paul in Romans 6: 3 and 4. "*Know ye not that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.*"

Paul says baptism is a burial. Sprinkling or pouring water on one does not fit with that Biblical description of baptism. In fact, those who administered Bible baptism never handled the element of baptism. The element is water and in sprinkling and pouring the administrator handles the water within a container. *(-Continued on page 3)*

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RECORDS 7/26/2009

SERMONS 8/2/2009

| | | |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------|
| Sun 10 AM Bible Study: | 40 | AM: Jerry Manning |
| Sun 11 AM Assembly: | 65 | |
| Sun 6 PM Assembly: | 47 | |
| Weds 7 PM Bible Study: | | PM: Jerry Manning |
| 52CONTRIBUTION: | \$1663 | |

**"Wherefore comfort yourselves together,
and edify one another, even as also
ye do." - 1 Thessalonians 5:11**

A Warm Welcome awaits you at all our services. Come see!
www.WestColumbiaChurchOfChrist.org

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided

Bible Classes for all ages

LADIES CLASS

2nd Tuesday of month 7-9 PM

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Lamar Reeves, Beryl Parks, Nina Ruth Meadows (Marcella Klieves' mother), Jack and Elma Berrier, Lynn Drago (Jerry's sister) and Phyllis Johnson.
- **Marcella Klieves** will be traveling with her daughter and son-in-law.
- Please continue to remember the Lowe's grand-daughter, **Sabel Patten**, 10 in your prayers as she is recovering from surgery to remove a brain tumor.
- **Don Fields** is having double vision and is to see a specialist.
- **Carolyn Lee** will be going to the beach with her daughter Heather and her family.
- **Anna Porter** requests prayers for her grand-son Stevie Hutchinson, an Air Force pilot, as his about to deploy to Iraq.
- **Ron Banks** is in considerable pain after back surgery.
- **Jean Boyd** was able to make it to the assembly this past week, after surgery.
- Prayers for **Lynn Drago** are especially coveted as she is in final stages of cancer.
- **Brother Manning** has many Bible studies during the week, remember these, those that are recovering from loss, in your prayers.

“REJOICE WITH THEM THAT DO REJOICE!” - Romans 12:15

- We rejoice as **Paul Kingma** was baptized into Christ Sunday morning. He had met and studied with our evangelist and come to a knowledge of the truth. He made the good confession before all and was baptized to wash away his sins. Encourage Paul as he starts a new journey.

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **First Sunday Luncheon! And Lord's Business meeting at 1:30.**
- **GOSPEL MEETING! North Columbia starting Sunday 8/9 with brother Don Walker from Texas, a gifted and sound Gospel preacher. Plan to attend!**
- We need some volunteers to **clean the building in August.**
- **Pantry items** are needed, things with pop-top lids are good.
- **Contributions** to our youth activities fund are needed.
- **Transportation** needed for sisters **Betty Mathis, Jean Boyd** and **Marilyn Brooks.**
- **Check the bulletin boards**, there are many announcements posted there.

"Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." - ACTS 20:35

“... PEOPLE, ZEALOUS OF GOOD WORKS.” - Titus 2:14

WORK TEAM SCHEDULE: 8/2—B 8/9—C 8/16—D 8/23—A

Members, see Michael Stoyk for a Work Team assignment

Check your Work Team assignment—your participation is vital!

Let Your Light Shine in 2009!

Baptism: What it is and does. —(Continued from page 1)

This was not the case in the New Testament. Baptism was always a burial and for those who seek to know God's will today, baptism is exactly what the Bible says it is.

John 3:23 says John the Baptizer was *"baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there."* Baptism requires much water. It also requires a "going down into the water and a coming up out of the water. The account of the Ethiopian and his conversion in Acts the eighth chapter indicates this. Philip the evangelist preached to the Ethiopian nobleman and as they came to some water the Ethiopian said, *"See, here is water. What doth hinder me to be baptized?"* (Acts 8:36). *"And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the Eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip..."* (Acts 8:38-39). The baptism taught in the New Testament is a burial or immersion in water.

But now, let's turn our attention to our second question. We know that Jesus commanded baptism and that it was practiced in the book of Acts by the very first disciples of Christ. For what purpose did they preach and practice baptism? The simple answer to that question is found in Mark's account of the Great Commission. In Mark 16:15-16 Jesus said, *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned."* This passage gives us the importance and purpose of baptism. Jesus commanded it because he requires it of those who want to be saved. Baptism, according to this passage is for the purpose of salvation. This is one of those un-get-around-able texts. It is so patently plain that one would need help to misunderstand it, yet there are multitudes who deny its plain statement — *"he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved."*

- Jerry C. Brewer, Gospel Preacher, publisher

Be Neither Weary Nor Compromising

Some, and perhaps all of us, need the exhortations, **"Let us not be weary in well doing; for...we shall reap if we faint not"** (Gal. 6:9), and **"Let us go on unto perfection..."** (Heb. 6:1).

A crown of life awaits those who are faithful to the end (**Rev. 2:10**). The faithful are those in the front line. We are soldiers of the cross, and the fight is on. Our greatest victory is to bring our own being into subjection to the Lord's will.

Satan is pleased when he sees a man who claims to be a Christian compromising between truth and error. The truth must stand and the error must fall. There can be no compromise if we are to please God (**Gal. 1:10**). Satan will fight as long as we stand for the truth, but he relents and is pleased when we give in to those in error.

Regardless of how much we may be attached to a man, we should remember that the truth is greater than any human being.

- E.M. Borden, Gospel preacher, late 1800's— early 1900', in Texas