

THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..."(Jude 3)

March 09, 2014

Coldwater church of Christ

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ELDERS

Richard Price
Kevin Smith
Bill Vincent

DEACONS

Bob Austin
Johnny Downs
Josh Fulcher

PREACHER

Luke Puckett

SUNDAY SERVICE

Bible Class: 9:30
AM Worship: 10:15
PM Worship: 1:00

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class: 7:00pm

LADIES CLASS

Tuesdays at 10:00am



A Message To Our Visitors

It is our privilege to have you visiting with us today. Please know that you are our honored guest. Please let us get to know you, and fill out an attendance card so we can have record of you being here. Please return to be with us again at your earliest opportunity. If you have questions or would like to study the Bible with us please let us know. Thanks again for visiting with us, and may God continue to bless you according to His divine purpose.



THOSE TO SERVE

Announcements:

Richard Price

Lead Singing:

Mitchell Smith

Opening Prayer:

Bill Vincent

Scripture Reading:

Ray Stenbridge

Lord's Table

Josh Fulcher
Johnny Downs
David Dodd
Bob Austin

Closing Prayer:

Richard Jones

Greeters (East)

Kevin & Tammy

Greeters (West)

Kay & Linda

Welcome

Chris Clevenger
and family

THE TRUTH ABOUT BAPTISM

By: Luke Puckett

Baptism? What? I was all ready baptized. Why do I need to know more about something I've all ready done?

The truth is we need to know, and can know, the truth about baptism. This one point could be the reason why you are lost eternally in the torments of hell.

What is baptism? The word baptize comes for the Greek word baptizō. It is defined by Thayer's as "to dip, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk)". This word originated in referring to a ship that had sunk or was completely covered by water. This is what baptism is, it is an immersion or a covering in water. What is baptism then for? Most religious people know something about baptism, maybe they have even been baptized, but was it for the right reason? Most people think that baptism is "an outward showing of an inward feeling." Most were baptized after they had, supposedly, received salvation or forgiveness of sins. But, this can't be the case. You see, baptism is for salvation. We are immersed for the forgiveness of sins. One can't be saved before they were baptized. This is why so many will be lost; they ignore God's command on this very important subject. Let's look at what God and His word have to say.

First, as we have seen that baptism is a full covering, not a sprinkling. We are **buried** with Christ in baptism (Col 2:12). What does this have to do with baptism and the forgiveness of sins? Everything! When Christ was buried, he died that death on the cross, so we can have remission of our sins. He was buried, a dead man, but after three days he was resurrected. In baptism, we do this. We die and then are born again. Notice Rom 6:1-7 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? (3) Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (4) Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (5) For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, (6) knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. (7) For he who has died has been freed from sin." In VS 3, it says we are baptized into Christ, therefore, into His death. VS 4 says we are buried with baptism into DEATH. Death of what? How do we die? You see, when we are covered with water, we die a spiritual death then are resurrected to walk in new life, that is a life with no sin. Notice VS 5-6 again. Our body of sin is destroyed and we no longer serve sin. When does this happen? When we are baptized into Christ.

Second what is the purpose of baptism? Baptism is, as we have just seen, an immersion where we put to death our sins. So then the purpose of baptism is to save us from our sins. Let's look at a few passages. Mar 16:16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." Here, Christ says that first we must believe and then be baptized for salvation. The word "AND" is a little word that means so much. It takes both belief AND baptism to equal salvation. 1Pe 3:20-21 "who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water. (21) There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ". Notice again, that which saves us is baptism. To be saved spiritually is to destroy sin, not to have sin, to have sin forgiven, and that is exactly what baptism does. Here, Peter says that just like Noah and the seven other souls were saved by water we too are saved by water, baptism. But how was Noah saved by water. I thought Noah was saved from the water in the ark? You would be correct, but that was his physical salvation, and we are talking about spiritual. Think back to Genesis 6. The hearts and thoughts of men were only evil all the time. The world was full of sin and wickedness. So God sent water to wipe it away, destroy the sin that was in the world. How did God destroy sin in the times of Noah? How was Noah saved? BY WATER! In this same manner we are saved today. Water, by means of baptism destroys sin, just like in the days of Noah. *(continued on page 4)*

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Mae Downs (10th)
- ⇒ Amber Puckett (11th)
- ⇒ Rhonda Tracy (13th)

Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** (Numbers)
- ⇒ **Team 2** meets today
- ⇒ **Gospel meeting** with Chris Clevenger—March 9-12
- ⇒ **Muscle and a Shovel** has been added to the library
- ⇒ **Bible bowl** plans made with Green Plain congregation for May 3rd . Ages are Kindergarten through 12th grade. If interested please see Luke Puckett or Wesley Tucker. Topic will be miracles and parables of Christ.
- ⇒ **Area events:** Please see bulletin board for more info. Several meetings, singing classes and Bible schools are coming up in our area.
- ⇒ New personal invitation handouts are available . Please make sure to take some and hand out or leave with a tip, and invite someone to our service!
- ⇒ **Remember** Potluck after AM service. All are invited.
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is Jelly.

Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Ruby Arnett (Heritage Manor nursing home in Mayfield Room 307)
- ⇒ Debbie Smith (Kevin's sister-in-law-cancer)
- ⇒ Greg Black (Kathy Black's son)
- ⇒ Loretta Haley (cancer)
- ⇒ David Edwards (Josh Fulcher's uncle-cancer)
- ⇒ Jana Ward (cancer)
- ⇒ Todd Walker
- ⇒ Trudy Smith
- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Norma & Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ J.D. Lamb (Fern Terrace)
- ⇒ Wanda Riley (Josh Fulcher's Aunt)
- ⇒ Delbert Newsome
- ⇒ Marilyn Dvorak (friend of Bob and Susanna, has esophagus cancer)
- ⇒ Dorothy McNeely (Richard Adams' sister, has cancer)
- ⇒ Derek Adams (Richard Adams' grandson, has leukemia)
- ⇒ Jim Pool (member at Green Plain)
- ⇒ Mallory Harrison Berry (friend of Stembridges, has brain cancer)
- ⇒ Garret Austin (Bob and Susanna's grandson has fatty tumor on hip)
- ⇒ Carter Hutchison (Luke and Amber's nephew is having tests)
- ⇒ Continue to remember all those who have lost loved ones this year

WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear the Word
(Rom 10:17)

Believe the Word
(John 8:24)

Repent
(Luke 13:3)

Confess Christ
(Rom 10:10)
(Acts 8:37)

Be Baptized
(Acts 2:38)
(Acts 22:16)

Remain Faithful
(Rev 2:10)
(Acts 8:12-24)

Heaven can be your home if you obey God!
(Heb 5:8-9)

Please visit our website at www.coldwaterchurchofchrist.org. You will find bulletins, sermon outlines, and other helpful links and material.



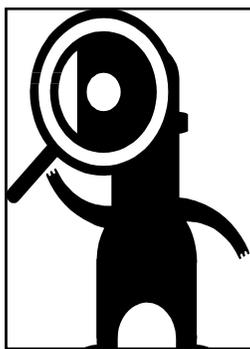
(continued from page 2)

Look at Act 22:16 "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." This is Ananias talking to Saul, later to become the apostle Paul. Most think that Paul was saved on the road, but if he was saved, had all his sins forgiven him, why then did Ananias tell him to be baptized and have his sins washed away? Because he was not saved until he was baptized! Look, also, at what baptism did. It WASHED away his sins! How wonderful to know that the purpose of baptism is to save us from our sin! That our sins can be washed away, cleansed of our past. Also, notice Act 2:37-38. "Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (38) 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." Here, Peter told the people that baptism was FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. Unless you were baptized into Christ (Gal 3:27) for the remission of sin, then you are not saved, your sins have not been forgiven you. You see how this one thing can cause someone to lose their salvation because they are not baptized for the remission of sin in full covering of water?

I thought that it is the blood of Christ that forgives us. Once again, you would be correct. Mat 26:28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Christ's blood was shed for the remission of our sins. Blood sacrifice has always been required for sins. Christ has paid that great sacrifice of sins for us once and for all. Heb 10:12 "But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,". Where do we come in contact with the blood of Christ? Obviously, we can't come into contact with the literal blood of Christ today. His literal blood is long gone after his death, but if we go back to the cross we can see what symbolically represents that blood today. Joh 19:34 "But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out." Blood and water is what Christ shed on the cross. His blood, which was the sacrifice that is required to be reconciled to God, is dried up, gone in the passing of time, but water signified a washing or removal. Water is readily available today and can wash away or remove our sins by the blood/sacrifice of Christ. Once again, going back to Rom 6, in the first several verses we see that we come into contact with Christ's death when we are baptized. When did Christ shed His Blood? At his death! When do we come in contact with that blood/His death? When we are baptized into Christ.

There is so much more that is said about baptism in the Bible. In the book of Acts, every person who was converted was baptized, and it was done so right away. Why? Because baptism is essential to our salvation.

Would you not consider your own self and your baptism? Have you been baptized? Was it for the right reason? Were you baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins? If not, then your sins have not been forgiven. If you were "saved" before baptism, what saved you? As we have seen in our study, only faith leading to repentance leading you to confess Christ, culminating in baptism is the only thing that can save us. Christ has done his part. He died the death on the cross, shed His blood for you and me, gave His life for us. All He asks in return is for us to obey Him (Heb 5:8-9).



Bible question: What Canaanite king was noted for having 900 iron chariots?

Last week's answer: Jews and Greeks in Ephesus (Acts 19:17-19)

Those answering: Kay Robertson, Linda Jones, Helen Tidwell, Peggy Newsome, Clemmie Black, Bob & Susanna Austin, Rachel Adams