



THE INFORMER

Church of Christ ~ New Albany, Mississippi

www.nacoc.us

April 20, 2021

The Necessity of Baptism

Tim Dooley

Why is there so much misunderstanding, controversy, and false teaching regarding the subject of baptism? Why do so many souls balk at the notion of immersion for the remission of sins? It is so fundamental to the biblical teaching of salvation, and so essential to the forgiveness of sins, it seems silly that so many stand in defiance and ridicule of such a simple submissive act.

Maybe that's it, submission. We live in such a pride-oriented society that maybe the concept of submission is so foreign to us that the idea of baptism seems absurd. If that is the case then nothing God has to say is going to matter until we learn to humble ourselves in order for Him to be able to lift us up (James 4:10).

So, let us look at baptism and what the Bible has to say. The first objection people cite has to do with the mode of baptism. Because there is no English word for baptism we must look to the original Greek word for our definition. According to Greek scholars it means to dip or immerse. Couple that with the imagery of Romans 6 and we find that it is a burial, an immersion, in water. This must be why John baptized "*in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there*" (John 3:23). He could not baptize with only a pitcher or bowl and you certainly cannot baptize in them.

So, baptism is a burial, an immersion, but for what? The common theology is that it is merely a commitment or more commonly an "outward sign of an inward faith." As these things may be true, neither of them is ever mentioned in Scripture as the primary purpose of baptism.

True biblical baptism has several ultimate goals. One, it is in order to have our sins washed away. "*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*" (Acts 22:16). Two, it is for our salvation. "*The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:*" (1 Peter 3:21). Thirdly, it puts us into Christ, Him in us, and us into His family. "*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ*" (Galatians 3:27). "*But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women*" (Acts 8:12). "*For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit*" (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Now there are those who say that baptism is not essential to salvation. But considering the previous thoughts can one still honestly hold to such a notion? Really? Consider these scriptures: "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned*" (Mark 16:16). "*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost*" (Acts 2:38).

Please let me ask you these questions, "How important is your soul to you?" "How important are the souls of your family and friends?" They are important enough to God that He sent His Son to die for you. The real question then is, "Will you give your life to Him in humble obedience?" Only those who obey Christ, as He obeyed the Father, have hope of being saved (Hebrews 5:8-9). Work out your own salvation and then make your calling and election sure. Be faithful!

Hear Kenneth Moore

Kenneth Moore will be with us Sunday morning, April 25th to teach Bible Class and to present the sermon during our morning Worship Hour. Kenneth is from Nashville, Tennessee and is a full-time student in the Freed-Hardeman University Graduate School of Theology, where he is pursuing his Master of Divinity. He also serves as a graduate assistant for the Bible Department, is an English tutor and is the student leader of the FHU Be the Bridge Group. Kenneth loves studying, discussing and preaching God's Word as it truly gives us *"all things that pertain to life and godliness."* (2 Peter 1:3)



Youth News

- **April 25th** there will be a Youth Devo after services at the fellowship building. Greg and Kim Clayton will host. Girls are asked to bring chips and boys bring drinks.
- **April 28th** NAYPE (New Albany Youth, Prayer & Evangelism) will meet after services.
- **May 1st** 7th-12th Youth trip to Topgolf

A Child's ABC's

A grandfather overheard his granddaughter repeating the alphabet in reverent, hushed tones. "What are you doing?" he asked. "I'm praying, Grandpa," she said. "I can't think of the right words so I just say all the letters. God will put them together for me 'cause He knows what I'm thinking."



Who Is In the Cockpit?

A photographer from a well-known national magazine was assigned to cover a fire at Yellowstone National Park. The magazine wanted to show some of the heroic work of the fire fighters as they battled the blaze.

When the photographer arrived, he realized that the smoke was so thick that it would seriously impede or make impossible photographing anything from ground level. He requested permission to rent a plane and take photos from the air. This was approved and arrangements were made. He was told to report to a nearby airport where a plane would be waiting.

He arrived at the airport and saw a plane warming up near the gate. He jumped in with his bag and shouted "Let's go!" The pilot swung the little plane into the wind and within minutes they were in the air.

The photographer said, "Fly over the park and make two or three low passes so I can take some pictures." "Why?" asked the pilot. "Because I am a photographer and photographers take photographs." The pilot was silent for a moment. Finally, he stammered, "You mean you're not the flight instructor?"

When it comes to our spiritual lives, we had best be certain that someone competent is in control. If we assume someone else has the ability to guide us safely, we may well be headed for disaster, unless that someone else is Christ.

Jesus said, "...*Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch? The disciple is not above his master: but everyone that is perfect shall be his master*" Luke 6:39-40.

Take a moment to check the cockpit. Who is in control of your life?

YOU TUBE ~ LIVE STREAMING ~ Sun. @ 9:30; Wed. @ 6:30

PRAYER LIST



Jason Jennings will have gallbladder surgery Friday, April 23rd in Tupelo.

Bobby Sweat, uncle of Alyce Jennings, is in the Tupelo Hospital with heart complications.

Mitchel Barton, uncle of Alyce Jennings, is in a South Carolina hospital and will have a dialysis port replaced due to infection. He is suffering from kidney failure.

Sympathy:

We extend our sympathy to the family of *Lillian Pulliam*. *Lillian* passed away Saturday night due to complications from diabetes. She was a 10th grader at New Albany High school.

Continue to Remember:

Masey Kate Adams, Betty Boren, Kathy Clayton, Audrey Clement, Shane Crotts, Kathy Dye, Prebble Foster, Eleta Grimmitt, Madison Hardy, Luke Jennings, Gloria Jones, Sue Marques, Nancy Petrowski, Olivia Pounders, Susie Robertson, Ansley Thompson, Lake Tremble, Charles Ulmer, Sarah Grace Wise

Shut-Ins:

J. L. Eaton, Linda Griggs, Billy Joe Garner, Nancy Petrowski

Nursing Home/Assisted Living:

Bill & Helen DePriest, Joe Downs, Lucille Gibson, Bill Lyon

Military List:

Derek Bradley, Tevin Bradley, Chase Seals



REMINDER

We have resumed our Sunday night services once again. The time for now is 6:00 p.m. Beginning May 2nd, our evening services will be at 1:15 p.m. each week. The first Sunday of each month we will have a fellowship meal together. The fellowship building will be open each week thereafter for those who wish to bring lunch and eat between services.

I've Learned

Wisdom consists in knowing what to do with what you know.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



April 20. Clint Stroupe
April 25. Billy Joe Garner
April 26. Austin Garrett
April 29. Lana Todd

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

April 28. Larry & Linda Ashmore



PLACED MEMBERSHIP

We are so happy that *Clint and Dawn Stroupe*, along with their son *Madison*, and daughters *Nora* and *Georgia* made it known Sunday, April 18th they desire to be part of the New Albany Congregation. We know they will be an asset to the work here at New Albany. Please welcome them to our church family. Their address is: 400 CR 753, Dumas, MS 38625.

CHURCH HAPPENINGS

- **May 1st** Game Night will be held at the fellowship building from 4:00-8:00p.m. Bring finger foods and your favorite games.
- **May 15th** Golf outing at the Ole Miss Course around 9:00a.m. Cost is \$40 for green fees/cart. Sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer.
- **June 13th-16th** VBS for everyone!

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone for the prayers and cards. We are so blessed to be part of this loving, caring church family.

Bill and Grace Lyon

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Visit our website @ <http://www.nacoc.us>

Email: nacoc15s@gmail.com

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Volume 16

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday School.....9:30
 Morning Worship.....10:30
 Evening Worship.....6:00
 Wednesday Bible Study....6:30

MINISTERS

Tim Dooley.....859-486-4215
 Shaler Grigsby...Youth/ Assoc.
256-263-9137
 Office.....662-534-4649

ELDERS

Greg Clayton.....252-9762
 Tim Dye.....316-2527
 Richard Jennings316-1305
 Troy Robertson316-3163
 Phil Young.....316-2059

DEACONS

Kurt Clayton.....316-6420
 Shane Crotts.....266-0195
 Jason Jennings.....801-3260
 Mark Jennings....731-609-3309
 Randy Wall316-9255

TO SERVE

Communion.....Steve Todd
 Scripture.....M. Simmons
 A.M. Prayer.....Mark Jennings
 Closing.....Paul Ormon
 P.M. Prayer.....Greg Clayton
 Closing.....Harold Russell
 Greeters.....K&S Simmons
 Lock.....Shane Crotts
 UsherShane Crotts
 SecurityMatt Jennings
 Wed. Open 28thR. Clayton
 Wed. Close 28th.....A. Parks

OUR RECORD

Sunday School.....86
 Sunday A.M.....113
 Sunday P.M.....63
 Wednesday.....94
 Contribution.....\$4,168.00
 Budget.....\$4,219.62

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A PERFECT LIFE

*THERE IS NO PERFECT LIFE,
 NO PERFECT JOB,
 NO PERFECT CHILDHOOD,
 NO PERFECT MARRIAGE
 AND NO PERFECT SET OF PEOPLE
 WHO WILL ALWAYS DO WHAT WE
 EXPECT THEM TO DO.*

*WHAT WE HAVE IS A PERFECT GOD
 WHO IS ABLE TO LEAD US
 THROUGH THIS IMPERFECT LIFE
 WITH UNFAILING STRENGTH,
 INCOMPARABLE WISDOM
 AND INFINITE LOVE.*

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