

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

February 18, 2024

Welcome!



"Now I see that I, even I, am He, and there is no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand"

Join us at 6:00pm for another lesson in our "Unsolved Mysteries" series: Did Joseph's Coat Have "Many Colors"?

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Prayer List

Jerry Butterworth responded to the invitation on Wednesday night asking for prayers and expressing his desire to rededicate his life to God.

Johnny Walker's back is better

Rebecca Brown is recovering from a broken hand

Burt Wilkerson, Martha Gregory's brother-in-law, is in the nursing home with dementia

Mamie Hamilton is still having issues with pain.

Brian West's surgery went well

Belinda Mayo is recovering from a second back surgery

Darinda Paul is home, and her cancer treatment is proceeding

Elizabeth Demonbreun is doing well at home

Continue to pray for: the **Nathan Horton** family, **Donnie Garrett**, the **Stroud** family, the **Wilkerson** family, **Keith Walker** and family, **Kim Walker**, **Rebecca Brown**, **Forshia Pennington**, **Carol Saling**, **Camille Brosky**, those in **Ukraine**; **John Hayes**, **Nick Phifer**, and **Bill Gillock**

We invite everyone to join us Wednesday night at 7pm as we study the Life of Abraham

Serving Today

Song Leader:
Jeff Baker

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
Eddie Walker

Prayer:
Dwight Pennington

WORSHIP (10:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
Jearmie Gupton
Acts 2:37-39; Eph 4:4-7

Wait On Table:
Mike Reed

Serve:
Josh Demonbreun
Johnny Walker

Prayer:
David Billingsley

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 am
Sunday PM Worship	6:00 pm
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm

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Acts 2:38 (ESV) - And Peter said to them, “Repent and **be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Purpose of this Study - I believe with all my heart that the New Testament teaches that water baptism is an essential part of receiving salvation from God. However, even if we fully believe this, our understanding of the true nature of baptism can still become out of alignment with scripture. This misalignment can affect both those who have already been baptized and those who have not. My prayer is this study will help us get back into alignment as to the true purpose and meaning of baptism from the New Testament pattern.

Critical NOTE: This study will address our RESPONSE to God’s plan and offer of salvation. If we begin our dive into baptism with the idea that we are somehow earning something with our actions, then we will be hopelessly off course. Salvation is a divine act of mercy, and baptism is a response to the payment God has already made.

Things That Can Become Misaligned

Our L _____ - The way we talk about baptism and salvation can lead to subconscious misalignment with the New Testament pattern. Here are two examples:

“Obeyed the Gospel” - I have personally said this and heard this for most of my life when someone is baptized. However, there is a dangerous concept being implied with these words, even if it is not our intention. The implication is that baptism is the culmination of our obedience to God rather than the beginning. This can inadvertently lead to subconsciously thinking of baptism as the goal or as a checkbox exercise.

“Steps of Salvation” - If you grew up in the “Church of Christ”, you are likely familiar with the “Steps of Salvation”. These are (1) Hear (2) Believe (3) Repent (4) Confess (5) Be Baptized. I will start by noting that our response to God’s offer of salvation is not presented this way anywhere in the New Testament. While the intent of this type of list is to summarize a spiritual truth, the danger is in it being interpreted as a mathematical formal or checklist that must be completed to earn a reward. This can inadvertently take the focus off true conversion and genuine obedience.

Our M _____ - Our language (and other factors) can subconsciously lead to our motivation for baptism being misaligned from what God intended. We will talk at length in this series about the reasons why one should be baptized, but let’s remember a few things that should NEVER be our motivation:

- To simply complete a step or check a box on a checklist. To EARN something (**Rom 4:1-5**)
- To please our parents, spouse, sibling, a church member, the preacher, etc. (**1 Peter 3:1-2**)
- Just because our friends (or others) are doing it.
- Just because it is expected of us (i.e. by our parents, spouse, church members, etc.)
- To **get it over with**

Our P _____ - Our view on the result and meaning of baptism is another thing that can become misaligned. For example, a lot of Christians still deal with guilt. Some of this can come from our continued fight with sin, even after baptism. However, remember that we are never promised that baptism will prevent us from the possibility of sinning (**Rom 6:1-14**). Even after baptism into Christ, we will continue to wrestle with sin and fight our human nature. Part of baptism is publicly proclaiming that we are willing to commit to wrestling with sin, and fighting our human nature, with God as our strength (**Eph 6:10-20; Phil 4:13**).