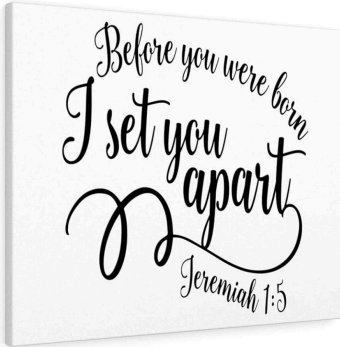


PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

March 10, 2024

Welcome!



“Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples, Give to the Lord glory and strength. Give to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come before Him. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. The world also is firmly established, it shall not be moved.”

Join us at 6:00pm for worship in song

Minister: Timothy Agee
timothy@teamagee.com
615-330-8652

Prayer List

Hunter Crouch was hospitalized with kidney issues

Johnny Walker is managing back pain

Rebecca Brown is dealing with an ankle injury

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

Mamie Hamilton is doing physical therapy for her leg pain

Belinda Mayo is recovering from a second back surgery

Darinda Paul has gotten good reports from her cancer treatment

Continue to pray for: **Elizabeth Demonbreun**, 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**

Remember the egg hunt
March 30th at 4:00

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:
Dwight Pennington

Prayer:
Charlie Baker

WORSHIP (10:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
Lowell Gregory
Rom 6:3-4; Col 2:11-12

Wait On Table:
David Billingsley

Serve:
Doug Demonbreun
Jearmie Gupton

Prayer:
Eddie Walker

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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Last week we introduced the idea of Baptism as a wedding ceremony through which we (both individually and collectively) become the Bride of Christ as His church (**II Cor 11:2**). This metaphor was intended to help us in gaining a greater understanding of the **Meaning** of Baptism through the lens of scripture. Today, let's continue this thought in the context of Baptism representing the beginning of **A New Covenant** with God. Again, let's consider the marriage relationship as it begins with the wedding ceremony. What purpose would there be in a marriage ceremony if there was no loving relationship between bride and groom? What if there was no real commitment between husband and wife? I think we would all agree this would be a sham wedding that did not represent a true union as God intended (**Gen 2:23-24**). The same thing is true about the act of Baptism.

A Welcome S_____ - God made a covenant with Abraham where He promised that through Abraham's offspring "all families of the earth shall be blessed" (**Gen 12:3**). This covenant represented a joining of unequals as Abraham was unable to offer anything of value to be used in consideration of entering the covenant relationship. It was a unilateral act of God. A matter of Grace. Consider that when God reaffirmed His covenant with Abraham, only God passed between the animals on the ground (**Gen 15:17-18**). Later, circumcision was given by God to Abraham as a physical sign of this covenant (**Gen 17:9-14**). Being circumcised was an act of faith in God's promises. However, it was never meant to be just a ritual. It was intended to represent a new way of life. A change of the heart (**Deut 10:15-16**).

Now, God is offering us a New Covenant through His Son Jesus (in fulfillment of the covenant with Abraham). Since Christ is the one who made the payment through which this New Covenant is offered (**Rom 6:3-4**), this New Covenant also represents a joining of unequals, just like the covenant with Abraham. Christ died because we are unable to offer any kind of worthy payment on our own behalf. Baptism has replaced circumcision as the sign of this New Covenant:

***Colossians 2:11-12 (ESV)** - In him also **you were circumcised** with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **having been buried with him in baptism**, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.*

Now, back to our marriage metaphor. If our Baptism is not accompanied by commitment, have we really entered **A New Covenant**? Baptism is meant to represent much more than just ritual (**I Peter 3:21**), just like a marriage ceremony. It is what happens on the inside that makes the outer act (ritual) important. When Baptism is entered into lovingly with faith and commitment, it becomes the entrance into A New Covenant relationship with Christ. And "What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate" (**Matt 19:6**).

A Willing S_____ - To be baptized into Christ also means that we accept His headship, or spiritual leadership, in our lives (**Gal 3:25-29**). Christ is the head of the church just as the husband is the head of the wife (**Eph 1:22-23; 5:22-23**). In the wedding ceremony of Baptism, not only are we united with Christ, but we are also submitting to Him being our new head or master. This is also part of our commitment, as Paul says that "you are slaves of the one whom you obey" (**Rom 6:16**).

A Washing in S_____ - Water and Spirit combine to bring about spiritual rebirth and entrance into God's Kingdom (**John 3:3-6**). The Holy Spirit regenerates us (**1 Cor 12:12-13; Titus 3:4-7**) when we submit obediently by faith to water baptism. The ritual alone of water baptism cannot save us, just like the ritual alone does not lead to a successful marriage. Water baptism only makes sense in the context of obedient faith.