

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

March 17, 2024

Welcome!



“The Lord lives! Blessed be my rock! Let God be exalted, the Rock of my salvation!”

Join us at 6:00pm for Question Night where we will consider “What is the Rapture?”

Minister: Timothy Agee
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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 has been in the hospital with back trouble

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
Community Easter Egg Hunt March 30th at
4:00pm

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

Serving Today

Song Leader:
Steve Buchanan

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
Johnny Walker

Prayer:
Jeff Baker

WORSHIP (10:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
Mike Reed
John 3:3-5 / Matt 28:19-20

Wait On Table:
Jearmie Gupton

Serve:
Josh Demonbreun
Charlie Baker

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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The last two lessons in our series have focused on gaining a greater understanding of the **Meaning** of Baptism through the lens of scripture. We have done this with the idea of Baptism as a wedding ceremony through which we (both individually and collectively) become the Bride of Christ as His church. We've talked about how through this ceremony we are united with Christ, purified to be His bride, submitting to Him as our new head or master, and beginning a new covenant with Him. This clearly shows that Baptism is important, but if God is one doing all the work, is the ceremony itself essential? This is the question we will begin to consider this morning:

_____ (**Acts 2:37-41**) - This is perhaps the most straightforward passage in scripture concerning the **essential** nature of Baptism. During Peter's sermon on Pentecost, Luke tells us the crowd was "cut to the heart" and asked the simple question "what shall we do?". Peter's response is equally as simple when he says, "Repent and **be baptized**...for the forgiveness of your sins". Peter states that repentance and baptism actually initiate the forgiveness of sins (and in receiving God's Holy Spirit). You can also see the meaning and weight of Peter's words in the way the crowd responded, "So those who received his word **were baptized**, and there were added **that day** about three thousand souls." There was an urgency in their response that shows baptism is an **essential** part of receiving forgiveness of sins.

Those who believe that baptism comes **after** receiving God's saving grace will argue the words "for the forgiveness" in **v. 38** should be translated "because of the forgiveness". There are two significant problems with this argument. First, no reputable English translation of the Bible has ever rendered these words as "because of". This includes the KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASB, NIV84, NIV, NRSV and many, many more. Second, if "because of" were the correct translation, it would then read that BOTH repentance and baptism would be **after** receiving God's forgiveness. The idea that forgiveness comes **before** repentance is clearly contrary to the message of scripture.

_____ (**Rom 6:1-4**) - In the letter to the Romans, even though he had never met these Christians, Paul assumed they had been baptized into Christ? Why? How could it be for any other reason than he considered it to be an **essential** part of responding to the Gospel with obedient faith. Not only does He assume they had been baptized, but he also gives us one of the greatest descriptions of what baptism represents in explaining the act as being "buried" and "into His death". Last week, we ended our lesson by talking about God's Holy Spirit working in our water baptism to regenerate us (**1 Cor 12:12-13; Titus 3:4-7**). It must be in conjunction with this washing by God's Holy Spirit that we are buried into the death of Christ and are cleansed by His blood (**Heb 9:11-14; 10:19-22**).

_____ (**John 3:1-8**) - In the conversation between Jesus and the Pharisee Nicodemus, Jesus explains that one must be "born again" to be a part of the kingdom of God. After Nicodemus' confusion, and maybe frustration, at the thought of being physically born again from one's mother, Jesus then expands His explanation to include being "born of water and the Spirit". As we discussed last week, this is Jesus describing what is happening in the act of baptism. In baptism that comes from obedient faith, we are washed by both the water and God's Holy Spirit (**1 Cor 12:12-13; Titus 3:4-7**). Note that Jesus begins this explanation by using the word "**unless**", which indicates being washed by water and God's Holy Spirit is an **essential** part of being included in God's kingdom.

_____ (**Matt 28:19-20**) - In Jesus' final words to the 11 disciples before His ascension, He instructs them to "Go...and make disciples of all nations". To this instruction He adds, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit..." Would Jesus have included this if baptism was not an **essential** part of becoming one of His disciples?