

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

March 24, 2024

Welcome!

*I am
with you
and will
keep you
wherever
you go*
*genesis
28:15*

“So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory, because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips will praise You. Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.”

There will be a Men’s business meeting at 5pm today

Join us at 6:00pm for a lesson from Jeff Baker

Minister: Timothy Agee
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Prayer List

Levi Bearden will be having surgery for severe intestinal issues

Jerry Green, Corey Buchanan’s grandfather, passed away yesterday

Hunter Crouch is home after treatment for kidney issues

Rebecca Brown is dealing with an ankle injury

Mamie Hamilton is receiving in-home treatment for her back

Ronnie Mayo is recovering from hip replacement. His wife **Belinda** is doing well, staying with her brother in Springfield

Darinda Paul has gotten good reports from her cancer treatment

Continue to pray for: **Burt Wilkerson, Donnie Garrett, Keith Walker** and family, **Rebecca Brown, Forshia Pennington, Carol Saling, Camille Brosky**, those in **Ukraine; John Hayes**, 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:
Sam Baker

Prayer:
Jearmie Gupton

WORSHIP (10:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
Charlie Baker
Acts 8:35-38; 9:18; 22:16

Wait On Table:
Eddie Walker

Serve:
Doug Demonbreun
Jared Roaden

Prayer:
Jeff Baker

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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This morning, we will continue looking at the question “Is Baptism Essential?” While we will not be able to cover every example in scripture of when someone, or some group, were baptized, we will be focusing on accounts that help in answering this critical question:

_____ **(II Kings 5:1-14)** - I wonder sometimes if one of the reasons why some do not regard Baptism as an essential part of responding to the gospel is because of how simple it is. Maybe they think something like “how can being dipped in water have anything to do with receiving God’s salvation?” The account here in II Kings 5 is not about Christian Baptism but is instead the story of Naaman and his leprosy. After finally receiving instructions from Elisha, he is incensed at the simplistic nature of what he is being asked to do. He had traveled with his horses and chariots along with ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. He was expecting a spectacle from Elisha, but instead is told to dip seven times in the Jordan River, which he found despicable. When he ultimately relents from his stubbornness at the urging of his servants, he is cleansed of his leprosy. Did the water itself cleanse Naaman? Of course not! Would he have been cleansed if he had not washed in the Jordan River? Of course not! Did washing in the Jordan River cause him to deserve his cleansing? Of course not! Is not the same thing true about our spiritual cleansing in the waters of Baptism?

_____ **(Acts 8:26-40)** - There are some who would argue that “Baptism” is simply a metaphor for fully submitting oneself to God and was never intended to convey an instruction to be literally immersed in water. While there is one use of the word baptism that is clearly metaphorical in **1 Corinthians 10:2**, in referencing the Israelites being “baptized into Moses”, does this mean that we should interpret all uses of the word “Baptism” as metaphorical when responding to the Gospel of Christ? To answer this question, consider the account of the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch in **Acts 8:26-40**. Starting with Isaiah 53, Philip taught the eunuch “the good news about Jesus”. After hearing the “good news”, the eunuch responded “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” This passage shows us that not only was water involved in Baptism (as a response to the gospel), but it also involved going “down into the water”. This was not just a metaphor and was not just a sprinkling. It was a full immersion in water!

_____ **(Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-21)** - One of the most compelling accounts in scripture regarding the essential nature of baptism is the conversion of Saul of Tarsus. This conversion is recorded by Luke in Acts 9 and then recounted by Paul in Acts 22. Saul had been a persecutor of the church when he encountered Christ on the road to Damascus. This encounter left him blind as he waited for a meeting with Ananias. Consider the following questions regarding his waiting and his conversion:

- 1. How many days did Saul wait after he lost his sight? (Acts 9:8-9)**
- 2. Did Saul have a dramatic encounter with Jesus? (Acts 9:3-4)** - I have heard others describe the moment of receiving salvation in terms of a “dramatic encounter” with Jesus.
- 3. Did Saul fast while he was waiting for Ananias? (Acts 9:8-9)** - Many eastern cultures view acts of asceticism, such as fasting, as the way to enlightenment or salvation.
- 4. Did Saul pray while he was waiting for Ananias? (Acts 9:11)** - There are many who interpret passages such as Romans 10:13 as a “sinner’s prayer” which is used to ask for God’s salvation.
- 5. Did Saul believe in Jesus? (Acts 9:5; 22:8)** - Some think the instruction to “believe in Him” (John 3:16) or “believe in the Lord Jesus” (Acts 16:31) represent a simple acknowledgement of the existence of Christ (and do not require any action).
- 6. When were Saul’s sins washed away? (Acts 9:18; 22:16)**