

PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

April 7, 2024

Welcome!

God
IS OUR
Refuge
AND
Strength
PSALM 46:1

"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success."

Join us at 6:00pm today for a lesson from 1 Peter

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Prayer List

Levi Bearden will be having surgery for severe intestinal issues

Rebecca Brown's ankle is better

Mamie Hamilton has moved into a rehab facility

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: **Hunter Crouch, Burt Wilkerson, Donnie Garrett, Keith Walker** and family, **Rebecca Brown, Forshia Pennington, Carol Saling, Camille Brosky**, those in **Ukraine; John Hayes**, and **Bill Gillock**

Thanks for all the support for the Egg Hunt!

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

Serving Today

Song Leader:
Mike Reed

SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
Charlie Baker

Prayer:
Johnnie Walker

WORSHIP (10:30 am)

Scripture Reading:
David Billingsley
Acts 16:25-34

Wait On Table:
Jeff Baker

Serve:
Josh Demonbreun
Mike Reed

Prayer:
Dwight Pennington

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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We continue our look at whether or not Baptism is an essential part of responding to the Gospel. In today's lesson we will work through questions I have been asked over the years when discussing this topic with others...

What About The T_____? (Luke 23:39-43) - One big question here is why doesn't anyone ask about the other times when Jesus forgave people of their sins during His earthly ministry (e.g. **Luke 7:48**)? What they all have in common is that their contact with Jesus was before His death (beginning of the New Covenant - **Luke 22:20**), before His resurrection (which is pictured through Baptism - **Rom 6:4**), before Jesus gave the Great Commission (where baptism was commanded - **Matt 28:19**), and before promise of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:38**).

What About C_____? (Acts 3:19; 4:4; 5:14; 9:42; 18:8) - I've never been asked this specific question, but the concept is, what about those times when Baptism is not *explicitly* mentioned in the conversion of someone or some group of people? In **Acts 18:8**, Luke records that "Crispus...believed in the Lord, together with his entire household." While we know that others in Corinth were baptized from the later part of this verse, it is not explicitly stated that Crispus participated in immersion. However, in **1 Cor 1:14**, Paul says "I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius." So, even though it is not explicitly stated in Acts, Crispus was indeed baptized because that's how one responds to the Gospel!

Another prominent example is Peter's sermon in **Acts 3** after the healing of the lame man at the gate Beautiful. His instruction on how to respond is slightly different than in **Acts 2:38**. He says in **verse 19** that they should "Repent...and **turn back**". Many volumes have been written on the words "turn back", but the question here is how would the crowd have understood this instruction? We are told numerous times in Acts that the Lord was adding people to his Church on a daily basis (**Acts 2:47; 5:14**). It is safe to assume the residents of Jerusalem were aware of what was going on because it was all around them. People were responding, and they were being baptized (**Acts 2:41**). They would have easily understood that Baptism was part of responding because of their Jewish background (e.g. Gentile Baptism), and because of what was happening around them every day.

What About C_____? (Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-18) - In this account, Peter saw the Holy Spirit descend on the Gentiles while he was teaching them? This came *before* their Baptism into Christ. It was actually a major motivation for Peter proceeding with their Baptism and provided an indisputable defense when he was challenged by his kinsmen back in Jerusalem. So, does this situation apply to us? Do we receive God's Holy Spirit (and salvation) *before* Baptism, like these Gentiles? We must remember that God's Holy Spirit worked in different ways, at different times, to fulfill the will of God (e.g. **Samson - Judges 14 & 15** | **Mary - Matt 1:18-21; Luke 1:26-38** | **Apostles - Acts 1 & 2** | etc.). This situation is no different. God poured out His Holy Spirit to show that the Gentiles were accepted. This was never intended to be a pattern for our response to the Gospel.

What About The J_____? (Acts 16:25-34) - He asked the simple question "What must I do to be saved?" Paul responds, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved." So, what does it mean to "believe in the Lord Jesus"? Does this mean that Baptism is not required to be saved? Anytime there is an instruction to believe in Jesus (e.g. **John 3:16**), there is an implied contrast of "instead of anything else". We have a choice of who or what we will believe in during our life. To believe is to be **all in**, and willing to put the full weight of our life on our belief. This is NEVER meant to imply a simple acknowledgement of the existence of Jesus (**James 2:19**). Our true belief is borne out by the actions that we take. Now consider the actions of the jailer and his family. Paul and Silas "spoke the word of the Lord to him..." and subsequently, the jailer and his family were "baptized at once". Luke describes their later rejoicing as being because they "had believed in God". So, what was included in "believing"? All of it, even their Baptism!