


PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

April 14, 2024

<p>Welcome!</p> <p><i>You are loved more than you will ever know by someone who died to know you.</i></p> <p><small>Romans 5:8</small></p> <p><i>“Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. And say, “Save us, O God of our salvation; Gather us together, and deliver us from the gentiles, to give thanks to Your holy name, to triumph in Your praise.” Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting!”</i></p> <p>Join us at 6:00pm today for Service in Song!</p> <hr/> <p>Minister: Timothy Agee timothy@teamagee.com 615-330-8652</p>	<p>Prayer List</p> <p>Levi Bearden will be having surgery for severe intestinal issues</p> <p>Rebecca Brown's ankle is better</p> <p>Mamie Hamilton has moved into a rehab facility</p> <p>Ronnie Mayo is recovering from hip replacement. Our sympathies are with him and the Mayo family in the loss of his wife Belinda</p> <p>Continue to pray for: Darinda Paul, 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</p> <p>Our new periodic series on Christian Apologetics called: “Why Should I Believe?” begins in May 5th at 6:00pm</p>	<p><i>We invite everyone to join us Wednesday night at 7pm as we study the Life of Abraham</i></p> <p>Serving Today</p> <p>Song Leader: Jeff Baker</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Sam Baker</p> <p>Prayer: David Billingsley</p> <p>WORSHIP (10:30 am)</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Mike Reed Acts 2:41; 9:18; 22:16; 16:33</p> <p>Wait On Table: Johnnie Walker</p> <p>Serve: Josh Demonbreun Eddie Walker</p> <p>Prayer: Jared Roaden</p>							
<p>Service Times</p> <table><tr><td>Sunday Bible Study</td><td>9:30 am</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday AM Worship</td><td>10:30 am</td></tr><tr><td>Sunday PM Worship</td><td>6:00 pm</td></tr><tr><td>Wednesday Bible Study</td><td>7:00 pm</td></tr></table>	Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am	Sunday AM Worship	10:30 am	Sunday PM Worship	6:00 pm	Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm	<p>Follow Us</p> <p> pleasantviewcoc</p> <p>pleasantviewchurchofchrist.net</p>
Sunday Bible Study	9:30 am								
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 am								
Sunday PM Worship	6:00 pm								
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 pm								

This morning, we continue our series on Baptism by considering the practice and beliefs of other fellowships regarding Baptism and how that compares to the Biblical pattern.

A D _____ Ceremony - Over the years, I've had numerous conversations with individuals from various fellowships who hold a similar belief regarding the practice of Baptism. While they consider Baptism as important, it is only as an outward symbol of the salvation that has already been received. Sometimes they will refer to Baptism as one of the first steps of obedient faith *after* salvation. Many who hold this position believe that even though Baptism is not required for salvation, if one was not subsequently Baptized then there would be significant questions regarding the genuineness of their conversion.

As a doctrinal matter this assumes that salvation comes *before* baptism, but as a practical matter it often means that baptism can come days, weeks, or even months following a person's conversion. This timing is usually a matter of convenience and often happens on a scheduled day of Baptism held by their location congregation.

An U _____ Response - This biggest problem with this position is that the practice of a delayed baptism is significantly different from the pattern found in the book of Acts. There is simply no example of any delay between a person coming to faith in Christ and their Baptism. Also, in at least three examples, Luke emphasizes the immediacy of their immersion. Consider...

The Day of Pentecost - Acts 2:41 - So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added **that day** about three thousand souls.

Saul / Paul - Acts 9:18 - And **immediately** something like scales fell from his eyes, and he regained his sight. **Then he rose** and was baptized... **Acts 22:16** - And now **why do you wait?** Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'

The Philippian Jailer - Acts 16:33 - And he took them **the same hour** of the night and washed their wounds; and **he was baptized at once**, he and all his family.

A Lifetime of I _____ - Some fellowships insist on the delay so there is more time for additional instruction in God's Word before a person's Baptism. However, this again does not follow the pattern of the New Testament. Earlier in this series we used the metaphor of a wedding ceremony to try and emphasize the significance of the commitment being made in one's Baptism. However, trying to explain this type of delay as being like "premarital counseling" is where the metaphor breaks down. In spiritual conversion, the "premarital counseling" comes before faith and then continues after one is Baptized. The pattern of Acts is always:

Preaching Jesus (the Gospel) → Led to Faith

Baptism Immediately Followed the Point of Conviction (Faith in Christ)

The further we remove Baptism from the point of belief (faith), the more it becomes a ritual, even to the point where it doesn't happen at all. Did those who heard the word on Pentecost (**Acts 2:36-42**) believe in the words of Peter when Luke tells us they were "cut to the heart" (convicted)? Of course! It was at this point they asked, "what shall we do?" In other words, they were saying "we believe you, what more is required to receive salvation?" Peter then instructed them to repent (commit themselves to a changed life) and be Baptized (publicly demonstrate their faith in Christ) and then they would receive forgiveness of sins. From there, after their Baptism, they "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching..."