



PLEASANT VIEW PROCLAIMER

May 19, 2024

<p style="text-align: center;">Welcome!</p>  <p><i>"He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me."</i></p> <p>Join us at 6:00pm today for worship in song!</p> <p>----- Minister: Timothy Agee timothy@teamagee.com 615-330-8652</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Prayer List</p> <p>Darinda Paul's most recent cancer scans show the tumors shrinking. Thank you for your prayers!</p> <p>Levi Bearden will be having surgery for severe intestinal issues</p> <p>Mamie Hamilton is in a wheelchair and has not yet been able to do therapy.</p> <p>Kim Waller has had strep throat</p> <p>Ronnie Mayo is continuing to recover from hip replacement.</p> <p>Continue to pray for: Rebecca Brown, Hunter Crouch, Burt Wilkerson, Donnie Garrett, Keith Walker and family, Forshia Pennington, Carol Saling, Camille Brosky, those in Ukraine; John Hayes, and Bill Gillock</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES! CHARLIE BAKER ELLIE GUPTON</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>We invite everyone to join us Wednesday night at 7pm as we study the Life of Abraham</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Serving Today</p> <p>Song Leader: Jeff Baker</p> <p>SUNDAY SCHOOL (9:30 am)</p> <p>Scripture Reading: Lowell Gregory</p> <p>Prayer: Charlie Baker</p> <p>WORSHIP (10:30 am)</p> <p>Scripture Reading: David Billingsley <i>Acts 2:38-39; Gal 3:7-9, 23-29</i></p> <p>Wait On Table: Mike Reed</p> <p>Serve: Doug Demonbreun Jearmie Gupton</p> <p>Prayer: Eddie Walker</p>							
<p style="text-align: center;">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 style="text-align: center;">Follow Us</p>  <p style="text-align: center;">pleasantviewcoc</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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								

Last week we began looking at the practice of infant baptism in view of the doctrine of Original Sin. This morning, we will continue our look at infant baptism by considering the belief that it represents a sign of a family's covenant relationship with God.

A Sign of the Covenant? - This is a view popularized by John Calvin that baptism is the Christian equivalent of circumcision for infants born of believing parents. He said that such infants were "children of the covenant." Way back in lesson three, we considered how baptism has replaced circumcision as the sign of the new covenant (and a joining of unequals). However, is there any scriptural basis for baptism being administered to infants in the same way as circumcision?

As a reminder, circumcision was given to Abraham in **Gen 17:9-14** as a sign of the covenant (promise) God made with him and his descendants in **Gen 12:1-3**. The sign was to be administered to all males on the eighth day after their birth.

Peter's Promise? - Some see the "promise" of Peter in **Acts 2:39** as being the same as the promise to Abraham. Because of Peter's mention of "children", they believe baptism should be administered at birth in the same way as circumcision (i.e. as a sign of the covenant).

***Acts 2:39 (ESV)** - For the promise is for you and for your **children** and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."*

There are at least three problems with this interpretation:

1. The promise of Peter is not the same as the promise to Abraham. Peter was promising "forgiveness of...sins" and "the gift of the Holy Spirit" upon baptism (**v. 38**). This promise is predicated on repentance, which automatically excludes infants and small children who are not capable of faith and repentance.
2. Peter's promise includes the "forgiveness of...sins", yet infants are not sinful (see lesson 11).
3. Peter's reference to "children" does not mean they are baptized when they are babies. It simply means the promise is valid for all descendants when they are capable of repentance.

Households? - There are multiple places in scripture where there is a mention of an entire household or family being baptized. A few examples include Lydia (**Acts 16:15**), the Philippian jailer (**Acts 16:33**), and Stephanas (**1 Cor 1:16**). Some have assumed these families or households must have included infants who were baptized. However, whoever was in those households (family members or servants) had to be capable of repenting before their baptism (**Acts 2:38**). In the case of the Philippian jailer, the text says those who had been baptized "had believed" in God, which is not possible for an infant.

Children of Abraham? - In **Galatians 3**, Paul clearly teaches that being a physical descendant is not what determines the "sons of Abraham" (**v. 7**) or the "sons of God" (**v. 26**). This relationship is totally based on faith! Being baptized as an infant to believing parents does not establish a covenant relationship, or make anyone a child of God, under the new covenant. This new covenant is wholly through Christ (**v. 26**), and our inclusion is exclusively determined by faith (**Eph 2:8**). Paul explicitly ties our baptism (**v. 27**) with faith. Infants are not capable of choosing to place their faith in God, even if they are baptized.