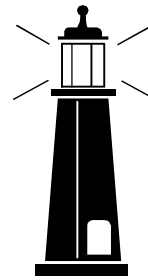


The Berryville Church of Christ

Bible Beacon



"Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Psalm 119:105)

Volume 2, Issue 9

March 2nd, 2003

Purity of Purpose

Kevin Cauley

It is clear from the scriptures that in order for one to be saved, one must be baptized (Mark 16:16). Since the word "baptize" is a transliteration from the Greek word "baptizo" the significance of the word is lost to us in the English language. So it is within the context of how the word "baptize" is used that we come to the conclusion that baptism must be immersion. Specifically in Romans 6:1-11, where we are taught that baptism is in the likeness of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. To be buried, one must be completely immersed in the burial material, water. For one to be baptized in a way that is not burial (such as pouring or sprinkling) would not be a fulfillment of the requirement to be buried. To this, most members of the Lord's body would agree. However, when it comes to the stated purpose for which one is baptized, many accept the idea that as long as the candidate is submerged, then they are saved, regardless of their state of mind. With this idea, many say that although one may not believe that baptism is necessary for remission of sins, if one is immersed God will forgive those sins regardless of the individual's belief regarding baptism itself. Is this a correct understanding of the scriptures? Let's examine the question in light of the plan of salvation. The Bible teaches that for a person to come into a state of salvation, one must: (1) hear the gospel message (Romans 10:17), (2) believe it (John 3:16), (3) repent of ones sins (Acts 17:30), (4) confess the name of Christ (Matthew 10:32) and (5) be baptized (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Each of these steps involves purity of purpose. Let's look at some scriptures that indicate this.

When we look at the step of hearing the gospel, we recognize that not any hearing will suffice.

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Kevin's Korner



The snow of last Sunday morning was really something to see. We went into the worship hour with nothing on the ground and when we came out there was about three inches that had fallen. Several had difficulties getting home, from what I understand, and had to come back later to retrieve cars from roadsides. I understand that everyone finally got their vehicles back home safely, though. Such weather may deter our bodies, but let it not deter our spirits! Paul wrote, "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory" (2 Corinthians 4:17, 18).

Of course, all of the snow and ice that we received this past week really caused havoc with the school schedules. Berryville schools were closed until Friday. I was able, however, to get out with the family and take some pictures of the winter wonder land around us here in the Ozarks. I am enclosing one in the bulletin. Those who read the electronic version of the bulletin will see it in color. By the way, there may be some who read the regular printed version of the bulletin who might want to receive it electronically. If you would like to do this, let me know and I will put you on the e-mail list.

I still do not have everyone's picture taken for the congregation, so I am extending the photo opportunities into the month of March. Please get with me soon so I can get a digital photo of you for our various works.

John Gass came by the building on Friday and helped to do a little work. He graciously volun-

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teered to take Mary Lynn and I out for lunch on Friday. We certainly thank him for that wonderful meal. John has been working on organizing our tracts and has done a good job. We have thousands of tracts in our inventory on a variety of subjects. These tracts represent potential opportunities for us to teach the gospel to others. If you know of someone who you have had some discussions with regarding the Bible, stop by one of our tract racks and see if there are any subjects that they might be interested in reading about. This past week we received several new titles. These tracts (in the Hobbes series) have been placed in our prominent tract racks by the front doors. These are not just quick articles, but are excellent studies for those who want a deeper understanding of the topic. I urge each of you to find at least one person this next week to whom you can distribute some of our tracts.

Here is something that EVERYONE can do - give a friend a tract regarding the gospel of Christ.



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It takes more than just letting the word go in one ear and out the other in order for a person to respond. Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27 that the person who hears and acts upon what he hears is like a wise man, but that the person who hears and does not act upon what he hears is like a foolish man. In other words, not only must we hear the gospel message, but also we must hear it in a certain way, with a specific purpose. We must hear the gospel with the view that we are going to act upon it i.e., obey it. So when one hears the gospel, one must hear it with the purpose in mind of obeying what one hears otherwise, hearing the gospel is useless.

When we look at the step of believing the gospel, we recognize that purity of purpose must be involved here as well. It is not sufficient to believe just anything, but we must believe the message of the Gospel. Moreover, we must not have ulterior motives for believing the gospel. One cannot believe something with the purpose in mind of simply making another person happy.

One must believe with a view of salvation in mind. There are certain things that a person must believe in order to be saved and there is the proper motive for believing those things. Romans 10:10 states that with the heart man believes unto righteousness. The heart must be pure in order to believe the gospel. The purpose must be understood, otherwise the feigned faith is useless.

When we look at the step of repentance, the Bible is clear that it is more than merely being sorry. In 2 Corinthians 7:10 we read, "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." It is not sufficient to merely be sorry for one's sins. The purpose of repentance is more than mere sorrow. The purpose of repentance is to stop doing the sinful things that one once did and to reform the pattern of one's life after righteousness (Acts 26:20). So repentance must be with the proper attitude and correct purpose or else it is no repentance at all. Again, the purpose must be understood for one to be saved.

One's confession as well must be pure. Does saying the words, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God" regardless of one's attitude fulfill the requirement of confession? No. An atheist can say the words, but that does not make him a Christian. The words in and of themselves contain no "magic" formula that works salvation upon an individual. These words must come from the heart; they must be meant. Again, Romans 10:10 says that with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. That presupposes that one has already believed. Confession must be done with purity of purpose and that purpose must be understood for one to be saved.

Now we get to the step of baptism. Should we conclude anything different regarding this particular step of salvation? Should we conclude that in all the other steps one's motive and purpose must be pure, but that when it comes to baptism

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Elders: Clay Bozarth, Leon Duncan, Bruce Foster, Bill Fort, Glenn Quigley

Deacons: Ken Smith, Brent Stevens, Rusty Windle.

Preacher: Kevin Cauley 870-423-6707

Times of Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class: 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:.....10:30 AM
Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class: 7:00 PM

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that we do not have to have a pure motive and purpose? There is nothing magic in the waters of baptism. The water is just water. So dunking a person under the water just for the sake of dunking someone under the water is not going to cut it. If the proper motive and purpose is not present, it is meaningless just like all the other steps of salvation. If a person is not baptized for the proper motives and purposes, he is just getting wet. The Bible clearly teaches that the purpose of baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16).

At this point many will ask, "What if a person is being baptized to obey God, but does not understand that baptism is for the remission of sins." Well, would God allow the other steps of salvation to be "obeyed" without an understanding of their purposes? Clearly God would not. He expects us to hear, believe, repent, and confess with a proper understanding of what these things involve when we do them as illustrated above. Why should we think that baptism is any different and why should we think that a person can "obey God" without a proper understanding of baptism? Would God accept an atheist who says the words "I believe Jesus is the Son of God" when he doesn't really mean them? No, because confession is not a magic formula, it is based upon faith. So also immersion is not a "magic formula" with intrinsic value, it is based upon faith.

The Bible teaches that when a person is baptized, they must believe that baptism is for the remission of their sins--that is the act of faith in baptism. Colossians 2:12 says, "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead." Without that act of faith involved in baptism, one is merely getting wet. If a person is just baptized "to obey God" what is the act of faith? Wherein are you putting your trust when you are baptized "to obey God?" Someone says, "I am putting my trust in God."

Great! So what are you putting your trust in God to do? When faith trusts God, it trusts God to do something (Romans 4:20-22; Hebrews 11). Baptism doesn't need to show that one merely believes God; confession accomplishes that! Baptism is not just a restatement of one's confession. It is more than that. Notice what Peter says on the matter of baptism. "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Notice what is said in this passage. (1) Baptism saves us. (2) Baptism is not merely taking a bath. (3) Baptism is the response to God of a good conscience. (4) Baptism saves by the resurrection of Jesus. Notice item number (3). When we are baptized, we have to have a good conscience about it--we must do it with the right purposes in mind. The good conscience when taught properly is going to understand that baptism is necessary for salvation and is going to motivate the individual to take the appropriate action. To say that one can be baptized correctly without understanding the purpose of baptism denies the role of the conscience in baptism.

Many have asked me the question: "Can you be taught wrong and baptized right?" In response, I ask, "Can you be taught wrong and hear right?" "Can you be taught wrong and believe right?" "Can you be taught wrong and repent right?" "Can you be taught wrong and confess right?" If we cannot do these things, then what makes us think that we can be taught wrong and baptized right? The bottom line is that God has clearly identified the purity of purpose for baptism. There is no reason for someone not to know what the purpose of baptism is when they are baptized and if they are not following the purposes that God has clearly set forth, they are just getting wet.

Sunday's Sermons

For March 2nd

Morning....."Come and See"

Scripture John 1:43-46

Evening..... A Study of 1 Tim.2:15

Scripture2 Timothy 2:15

Our Record

Week of 2/23

Sunday Class 59

Sunday A.M..... 70

Sunday P.M. 7

Wednesday 65

Contribution.....\$1312.00

Budget\$1760.00

News, Notes and Prayer List



- We are grateful to our God for this Lord's day and for His Son Jesus and His sacrifice!

- We welcome our visitors to our services today. You are our honored guests. Please stay around after services so that we can get to know you better. Also, please fill out a visitors card.

- Please remember the following in your prayers: Connie Atchley, Delma Johnson, Glenn Quigley
- Congratulations to Jack and Tiffany Gentry who are expecting their first baby!
- Lucille Wright is in room 504 of the Berryville nursing home.
- Edith Mischler is in the nursing home in Eureka Springs.
- Art Roberts and Mary Patterson are confined to their homes.
- Tonight we will have our youth devotional at the building.
- There will be a VBS meeting tonight before the devotional.
- Next Sunday evening is our question and answer session. If you have a question to submit to the question box, please do it today!
- Saturday will be our monthly men's breakfast. Please make your plans to attend this great time of fellowship.
- If you have not had your picture taken as of yet, please get with Kevin so he can capture your smile for our digital library of information.
- We have new tracts! If you have not yet perused our new blue tracts, please avail yourself of this opportunity. These are things that we can use for evangelism. Please hand a tract out to a friend today!
- The Pantry Item for this week is Toilet Bowl Cleaner.



Men to Serve

	<u>Today</u>	<u>Next Week</u>
Sunday Morning:	March 2nd, 2003	March 9th, 2003
Song Leader:	Larry Elliott	Brent Stevens
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Matt Bassing
Scripture:	Clyde Atchley	Perry Foster
Lord's Table:	Clay Bozarth	Leon Duncan
	Glenn Quigley	Glenn Williams
(assist)	Brent Moore	Brandon Foster
	Ray Duncan	Larry Elliott
Closing Prayer	Ken Smith	Brent Stevens
Sunday Night:		
Songs:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Preacher:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Rusty Windle	Glenn Williams
Scripture:	Matt Bassing	Bob Moore
Lord's Table:	Brent Stevens	Dale Pinkley
	Larry Elliott	Perry Foster
Closing Prayer	Bob Moore	Ken Smith
Wednesday		
Songs:	Hugh Atchley	Glenn Quigley
Opening Prayer:	Bill Fort	Dale Pinkley
Invitation:	Clyde Atchley	Bill Fort
Closing Prayer:	Ray Duncan	Brandon Foster
Monthly Assignments		
Announcements	Glenn Quigley	
Worship Coordinator	Brent Stevens	
Communion Prep	Pat Quigley	Debbie Smith
Communion Carry	Leon Duncan	Ray Duncan

The "Berryville Bible Beacon" is published by the Berryville church of Christ. Please contact Kevin Cauley at work at (870) 423-3068 or at home at (870) 423-6707 or e-mail bvccoc@alltel.net to contribute information.

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