

MARKET STREET



“And this is the message we have received of Him, and declare unto you...” (1 John 1:5)

MESSENGER

**Market Street
church of Christ**
514 West Market Street
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Athens, Alabama 35612
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Baptism: Its Action, Subject and Purpose

David A. Cox

There is not a Bible subject that seems to be as greatly misunderstood as the subject of baptism. Most people accept that there are some conditions of salvation. It may be that faith is a condition or that confession is what man must do to be saved, or even repentance is the condition that one must do to receive the forgiveness of sins and the salvation of their souls. However, baptism often is entirely neglected by people when they are considering the conditions of salvation. Let's give our attention to what the Bible teaches about Baptism in looking at three areas: the action, the subjects and the purpose.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 777-6737
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz (256) 232-3312
Joel Hamm..... (256) 278-1977
Larry Mitchell (256) 230-0185
Todd Williams..... (205) 541-8304
Russ Wulfekuhl (256) 683-9396

Evangelists

David A. Cox (256) 233-8910
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Jordan Lovell..... (256) 777-8998

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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

*is published in the interest of New Testament
Christianity and to enhance the work of the
Market Street church.*

David A. Cox, Editor

Baptism: Its Action

First we want to look at the action of baptism. Looking in Webster's Dictionary the word "baptism" means "(in the Christian Church) the religious rite of sprinkling water onto a person's forehead or of immersion in water, symbolizing purification or regeneration and admission to the Christian Church." But we must remember that Webster's Dictionary defines words according to their common usage. The common usage of a word does not always agree with the biblical use of the word. The word "baptism" in scripture comes from the Greek word, "baptisma" which is defined by W. E. Vine as "consisting of the processes of immersion, submersion and emergence" (Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, p. 96). Other English – Greek Lexicons we would confirm that the word for baptism means to immerse, to dip, etc.

One does not have to know Greek to understand what baptism means. The action of baptism can be easily seen in the scriptures, and one would also conclude the baptism is an immersion. One of the best passages describing baptism is found in Acts 8, in the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch. Phillip joined the Ethiopian to preach to him about Jesus (verse 35). They are making their journey they come to water and the Ethiopian asked "What hinders me from being baptized?" Phillip tells him that, "if you believe with all your heart, you may." Verses 38-39 continue, "So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they

came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.” From these verses, one can conclude that baptism involved both Philip and the Ethiopian going “down into the water” and coming “up out of the water.” From this, it is clear that the action of baptism is an immersion in water. Baptism is described in other passages as a “burial”. In Romans 6:4 Paul states, “We are buried with him by baptism into death.” Again Paul writing the church at Colosse says, “buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead” (Colossians 2:12). The word “bury” is significant. If you were told to bury a dog or cat, what does that mean? Does it mean to pour or sprinkle a little dirt on top of the dog or cat? No! We understand that we are to completely cover them with dirt. That is exactly what baptism is and is plainly taught in scripture.

Baptism: Its Subject

What about the subject of baptism? There are a great number of people in the religious world that believe in “infant baptism” which actually is not immersion, but sprinkling. The practice is to take an infant and sprinkle water on them. They will refer to this as baptism. Aside from the fact that sprinkling is not scriptural baptism, the question is “Who are the scriptural subjects for baptism?”

Looking to the scriptures, we find no case where infants were baptized. Those who believed in Jesus Christ as the Son of God were baptized. In Acts 2, when the people gathered at Jerusalem on Pentecost they heard the sermon preached by Peter and were convicted of their sins, realized their need to be baptized (Act 2:37-38). Three thousand Jews on that day believed the gospel preached and repented and were baptized (Acts 2:41). In Acts 8, one can see that in the conversion of the Ethiopian, Philip preached Jesus and when the Ethiopian asked about being baptized, Philip told him that he could if he “believed with all his heart.” The Ethiopian confessed saying, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God” (Acts 8:37). In Acts 16, the Philippian Jailor was taught the gospel of Christ by Paul and Silas and was told to “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ” (Acts 16:31). In every case of conversion, believing or faith is mentioned before baptism. It is clear in the scriptures that the scriptural subject for baptism must be one who is of age to hear and understand the teaching

of the gospel, to believe it and to obey it.

Baptism: Its Purpose

There are two common views about the purpose of baptism. One view is that baptism has absolutely nothing to do with salvation, but is a public proclamation of one’s faith. This view is often stated as “an outward sign of an inward grace.” The second view is that baptism is not only essential for obedience, but is directly connected to man’s salvation. Obviously, these two views stand in direct conflict with the other. What does the Bible teach concerning the purpose of baptism?

First, notice what Peter taught by inspiration about baptism. Jesus connected baptism and salvation just prior to his ascension into heaven when he told his disciples to go “and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved” (Mark 16:15-16). In Acts 2, Peter, just days later, told the audience after being convicted of their sins of crucifying Christ, “Repent, and be baptized, every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Peter clearly states here that baptism was to remit or bring about the forgiveness of their sins. Peter, in writing his first epistle, makes a connection between baptism and salvation when he spoke of Noah. Noah did all that God commanded him to do (Genesis 6:22) and built an “ark to saving of his house” (Hebrews 11:7). Peter then says that this is, “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” (1 Peter 3:21). Notice Peter describes the deliverance of Noah and his family from the flood as even baptism now saves us. This is done at baptism because:

- 1. Our sins are “washed away” or remitted (Acts 22:16; Acts 2:38).
- 2. The old man of sin is put to death and we arise as a new man in Christ (Romans 6:4-6).
- 3. One enters a new relationship in Christ (Galatians 3:26-27).
- 4. In this new relationship one is taken from the kingdom of darkness, translated into the kingdom of God’s dear Son (Colossians 1:13).

In baptism, the Bible teaches that one should not be concerned about the “outward sign”, but “the answer of a good conscience toward God” (1 Peter 3:21b). Baptism is the point in which we are added to the body of Christ, brought into a relationship with God and saved from our sins.

Let us remember that when it come to baptism that we need to make sure that we do not align ourselves with what man says, but with what God has said. Man needs salvation from sin and God has done all for man that He can do. Man must completely place his trust in God and submit completely to his will.



Troublemakers

Mike Thomas

Solomon observed, “Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; Yes, strife and reproach will cease” (Proverbs 22:10). This is true in all relationships in life, from work to family to church. The only way to truly remove continual, unnecessary conflict from a group of people is to remove the troublemaker. This is why churches are to withdraw from tumultuous people (Titus 3:9-11). The “mockers” (a term for scoffer) has to be removed before there can be true peace among those who remain. As long as he is permitted to speak his mind freely, he will stir up trouble with his opinions and bad attitude – constantly looking for the next person to fight.

The trouble with being a scoffer is it is nearly impossible for him (or her) to see his problem. His pride won't allow him to admit he is the reason he can't get along with others. Again, Solomon noted, “A proud and haughty man – ‘Scoffer’ is his name; he acts with arrogant pride” (Proverbs 21:24). He has lived with self-absorption for so long, constantly elevating himself above others, that he no longer realizes his reasoning is eschewed by pride. He is convinced that he is “a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, an instructor of the foolish, a teacher of babies” (Romans 2:19-20). In reality, he is unable to see his ignorance.

God's will is that we pursue “peace by those who seek to make peace” (James 3:18). This means we must be humble in our opinions and in our treatment of others. We must be more like Jesus, who came to serve than to be served, and less like the competitive world around us. Does this mean we will not have conflicts with others? Of course not. We must “contend for the faith” (Jude 3), which is at times a divisive issue among those who

prefer religious error (Matthew 10:34). However, when there is a conflict, the issue will be with the truth, and not because of an irritable attitude on our part. We are to live by the rule that a “servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all” (2 Timothy 2:24).

A wise man once observed, “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God” (Matthew 5:9). Shame on the one who scoffs at this instruction. Trouble will always find him, both in this life and in the next, but he who is wise will repent of his arrogance. Remember, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (1 Peter 5:5).

-via *Standing Firm*; Beaver Dam, Kentucky

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Fay Ferguson	Buddy Pepper
Carl Hargrave	Gilbert Hardy
Crutcher Harbin	Gwen Bullock
Joey Hinkle	Robert & Mot Beasley
Ruth Lawson	Una King Currier
Gene Carpenter	Dorothy Casteel
Ava Brooke Campbell	Alex Reed
Elizabeth Howard	David Holt
Phillip Harwell	Charles Burns
Eli Williams	Analynn Tegg
Elizabeth Kate Miller	Kim Pressnell

In The Hospital:

Mot Dollar; Crestwood Hosp.-Huntsville; rm. 323
Diana Ritter; Hunsville Hospital; rm. 436
Matt Poff; Vanderbilt Hospital; Nashville, Tenn.
Michael Vaughn; Kindred Hosp. - Rehab; Webster, Texas

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 75 Grady Tomerlin, rm. 102
Dorothy Draper, rm. 97 Mattye Murray, rm. 2
Mable Crafts, rm. 100 Gayle Mills, rm. 15
Robert Johnson, rm. 18 Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Judith Groce, rm. 63 Deannie Britton; rm. 66

Limestone Health Facility:

Albert Norton, rm. 36 Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Lodge:

Yvonne Sherbert, rm. 11

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Brookshire Healthcare - Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 112-C

Floyd E. "Tut" Fann Veterans Home - Huntsville:

Albert Bowers, rm. 115-C

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home

Wynell Casteel, at home

Lola Colwell, at home

Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

SYMPATHY: We want to extend our deepest sympathy to **Mildred Landers** in the passing of her nephew, **Greg Isom**. He passed away on Monday. There will be a memorial service this Thursday at the Bethel church building on Capshaw Road.

PLACED MEMBERSHIP: This week we rejoice that **Barbara Carter** has let in be known that she desires to be a part of the work here at Market Street. We are glad to have her with us. Let us extend a warm welcome Market Street to Barbara.

NURSING HOMESINGING: Remember the singing on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. at the **Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care**. Come to sing, you will enjoy it and you will encourage the residents there.

OUT OF TOWN: The Melvins: *Ross and Louise* are back in town after being in Florida last week.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group Two will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group two, remember to meet with your group tonight.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of August 3rd

Sunday:	Bible Classes.....	161
	Morning Worship	206
	Evening Worship.....	151
Wednesday:	Bible Classes.....	115



Singing — At the Gathering Place

This afternoon, August 10th
Following the afternoon service
Come Join Us As We Sing Together

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, August 10th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Hunter Cox
Prayer	Norman Brown
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting	Larry Mitchell
Serving	Steve Usery.....Bart Brown
.....	Kenneth Adams.....Stefan Fudge
Closing Prayer	Tommy Coblentz

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marcus Morris
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Dan Reed
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer	Jerry McGlocklin

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 10th:

Usher	Paul Hasting
Work Sound System	Marty Adams

Wednesday, August 13th:

Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Bible Reading.....	Romans 1:16-32
.....	Steve Usery
Prayer	Kenneth Smith
Invitation	Jordan Lovell
Closing Prayer	James Johnson

Sunday, August 17th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Dwaine Allfrey
Preaching	Jordan Lovell
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Kenneth Smith
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving	Norman BrownLandon Adams
.....	Bill ClaxtonDelmer Carter
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Evening Worship

Announcements	Marty Adams
Song Leader	Todd Williams
Prayer	Tommy Coblentz
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Kenneth Smith
Closing Prayer	Nathaniel Adams

Other Assignments for Sunday, August 17th:

Usher	Keenon Currier
Work Sound System	Terry Andrews