

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
P.O. Box 388
Athens, Alabama 35612
Phone (256) 232-1525

Volume IV

February 5, 2012

No. 6

Seven Good Reasons To Be Baptized

George Hutto

There are objections to the necessity of baptism for sinners today. Folks say that being dipped in water has nothing to do with salvation from God. But twenty-first-century sinners are no different from first-century sinners, and the gospel remedy is just as effective today as it ever was.

Here are seven good reasons a sinner should be baptized today.

1) Baptism is a command of God. "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord..." (Acts 10:48). "...Baptizing them... Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..."

A preacher once explained that baptism is certainly a command, but not necessary for salvation, which is quite a confusing idea for folks trying to learn about God. The commands of God are for obeying, not for violating.

The command to be baptized in water is not impossible, is not a request for sinless perfection, is not a work which merits salvation, and is not an act of self-righteousness. Baptism is simply an act of obedience, and is required of all (Mark 16:15-16).

2) Baptism washes away sin. "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16).

Centuries before Christ, Naaman the Syrian came to the man of God for cleansing from his leprosy, and the instruction was to dip seven times in the Jordan. When he obeyed, he was cleansed of his leprosy, but not until he obeyed (2 Kings 5).

As the water of the Jordan was not the actual cleansing agent for Naaman's leprosy, so is the water of baptism not the actual cleansing agent for the sinner. The cleansing agent is the blood of Christ (Rev. 1:5), but the cleansing happens at the point of baptism. Saul, from the passage above, was not a special case. The sins of every sinner can be washed away at the very point of baptism (Hebrews 10:22).

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes..... 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship..... 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship..... 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes..... 7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin..... (256) 232-7620
Kenneth Smith..... (256) 233-2050
Bonnie Sutton..... (256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams..... (256) 233-5147
Joel Hamm..... (256) 230-6223
Stuart Wilson..... (256) 233-6291

Evangelist

David A. Cox..... (256) 233-8910
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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

3) **A previous baptism may not be sufficient.** The folks at Ephesus had been baptized only with the baptism of John before Paul came to the city, but upon hearing the word more completely, they were baptized “in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:1-5).

Some people are baptized as infants, some to become a member of a denomination, and some just because it is expected by parents or friends. In the Bible “believers” were to be baptized, requiring a certain age and understanding. Also, these believers were baptized for the purpose of having the guilt of their own sin forgiven (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37-38).

Those who objected to infant baptism during the Protestant Reformation were labeled “anabaptists,” meaning “re-baptizers,” and persecuted for their insistence on baptizing after a confession of faith. Today in America, infant baptism is not so much the norm, but the reason a person is baptized should always be considered.

4) **It is where the new birth happens.** Bible students remember Nicodemus, and the Christ said to him, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3-5) The term “born again Christian” originates right here.

The apostle Peter said, “Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth...,having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...” (1 Peter 1:20-23) This new birth happens at baptism, the point in one's conversion which Peter compares to Noah's salvation in the ark (1 Peter 3:21).

5) **Baptism buries the “old man of sin.”** “...As many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death...Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life...our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin” (Romans 6:3-6).

The subject here is repentance, and repentance accompanies baptism in the conversion process. The first gospel sermon included the command to “Repent, and be baptized...” (Acts 2:38). Luke captures the Lord's very words, “that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all the nations...

(Luke 24:47).

Turning from sin, baptism for remission of sin, and burying the old man of sin in repentance - these go together, and baptism is key. God saves us from our sin - He does not save us in our sin. The “old man” has to go.

6) **Baptism puts one into Christ.** “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?” (Rom. 6:3). “For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).

The repentant sinner is baptized into Christ: where the spiritual blessing are (Ephesians 1:3); where God's grace and kindness are shown to sinners (Ephesians 2:7); where there is consolation (Philippians 2:1); where there is promise of life (2 Timothy 1:1).

Jesus said “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one cometh to the Father but by Me” (John 14:6) To be in Christ, one must be baptized.

7) **Baptism breaks the ice of procrastination.** The man of God asked Saul of Tarsus, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).

Often, a person puts off obeying the gospel as Felix did, hoping for a convenient time (Acts 24:25). A convenient time to serve God may never come - we must put one foot in front of the other in our service until we learn to walk. God's religion is an active religion, not a passive one, and it begins with the question of the Ethiopian: “Here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?” (Acts 8:36).

Now, folks may not object to baptism as much as they object to the necessity of baptism for salvation. Above are seven good reasons for being baptized, assuming a person believes in Christ as the Son of God and he is willing to confess his faith. They are taken from the primary source for Christianity, the Bible. Thank you for giving them your consideration.

~via *Tidings*; Russellville, Alabama.

Remember Our Study Periods

Sunday Mornings at 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Come and Join Us As We Study Together

The Victory of Faith

Ken Weliever

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith” (1 John 5:4).

Do you wear Nike shoes? Seen a Nike commercial with the slogan, “Just Do It”? Do you know what Nike means? It’s a Bible word!

In Greek mythology, Nike was the imaginary goddess of victory, who presided over all military and athletic contests. The Greek word “nike” (nee’kay) is the word for victory in 1 John 5:4.

Those born of God will face conflicts, controversies, and confrontations. We can either be conquered or we can be the conqueror. The Greeks believed in an illusion. But because we are born of God, believe in the real God, and belong to the true God, we have the real resources to be victorious in running our race to eternity. Consider these three applications.

Victory over Temptation. The same writer warned about the lusts of the flesh, the lusts of the eyes and the pride of life (1 John 2:15). Many a Christian has fallen prey to these foes. But through our growing faith in the revealed Faith of Christ, we can achieve victory. Sometimes our surrender to temptation is excused with the refrain, “I am only human.” True. But through faith, God has given us super human resources to fight and find victory. God has promised a means of escape (1 Corinthians 10:13). You can win the battle with temptation. Just do it!

Victory over the “thorns of the flesh.” Paul spoke of his struggle with the “thorn” in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. We’re not told the nature of his thorn, but it was hurting Paul. It was something Satan used to impede his progress, to hamper his effectiveness and frustrate his faithfulness. But Paul prayed. God didn’t remove the thorn. But through God’s grace and Paul’s faith, he found the strength to subdue the troubling thorn. Through grace and faith, we too, can be victorious over the thorns of sickness, pain, personal problems and vexing circumstances. You can win the battle with the “thorns of the flesh.” Just do it!

Victory over discouragement. Discouragement can sap the strength out of us. It can deplete our energies, exhaust us physically, drain us mentally and weaken us spiritually. Discouragement is a device of the Devil. It undermines the love in our homes, cripples the work of the church and enfeebles our faithfulness. Yet, we can muster the courage to overcome this fatal feeling. Through our faith in Christ, we can see a brighter tomorrow and know that one day all of our troubles and trials will pale into insignificance when we see Jesus.

You can win the battle over discouragement. Just do it! My Christian friend, will you be vanquished or victorious? The conquered or the conqueror? The choice is yours. The next time you put on your Nike shoes, remember that “nike” means victory. Know that as a Christian you can experience the victory of faith through Jesus. And believe (that with God’s help) you can just do it (Philippians 4:13)!

~via *Biblical E-Sights*, Vol. 1 No. 26

News & Notes

THE SICK:

Betty Pepper	Hazel Toone
Stephan Fudge	Caroline Wilson
Wynell Casteel	Judy Vaughn
David Gardner	Mary Ruth Gardner
Yvonne Sherbert	Martha Rice
Charles Burns	Matt Poff
Ava Brooke Campbell	Faye Cary
Joe & Sarah Collier	Clara Hicks
Kenneth Pressnell	Angeta Andersen
Brent Lowman	Betty Faye Holt
Barbara Ogles	Gladys Sandlin
Phillip Harwell	Una King Currier
Hailee Walton	Paige Phillips

In The Hospital:

Eli Williams; St. Jude’s Hospital, – Memphis, Tenn.

Limestone Health Facility:

Janet Berryhill, rm. 65 Annie Mae Bragg, rm. 57
Albert Norton, rm. 107 Rosella Pugh, rm. 74
J.D. Clanton, rm. 11E

Windsor House- Huntsville:

Rachel Grubbs, rm. 300

Shut-In:

Reba Adams, at home
Lola Colwell, at home
Polly Davis, River City Care, Decatur, rm. 74
Ruby Davis, Valley View Health, Madison, rm. 51-A

MILITARY SERVICE: Remember all those that are serving on foreign soil in the military for our country. Those who are among us or have connections to the Market Street church are:

Andrew Deen; Japan

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

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Convalescent on Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

THE RECORD: For the Week of January 29th

Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 135
Morning Worship 177
Evening Worship..... 132

Wednesday:

Bible Classes..... 90



Congregational Singing

Friday, February 24, 2012 — 7:00p.m.

Songleaders:

Jim Deason, Steve Klein & Mark White

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street
Athens, Alabama

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, February 5th:

Morning Worship

AnnouncementsJoel Hamm
Song LeaderTodd Williams
PrayerMarcus Morris
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Dwaine Allfrey
Assisting Jordan Lovell
Serving Landon Adams Marion Pepper
..... Hunter Cox Tyler Cox
Closing PrayerHunter Cox

Evening Worship

AnnouncementsJoel Hamm
Song LeaderStefan Fudge
Prayer Larry Michell
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper Dwaine Allfrey
Closing Prayer Ronnie Locke

Other Assignments for Sunday,February 5th:

Usher Danny Johnson
Work Sound System Marty Adams

Wednesday, February 8th:

Song LeaderTodd Williams
Bible Reading.....(Isaiah 37:21-29)
.....Joel Hamm
Prayer Stuart Wilson
InvitationDavid Cox
Closing Prayer Dwaine Allfrey

Sunday, February 12th:

Morning Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song Leader Hunter Cox
Prayer Dan Reed
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper
Presiding Terry Andrews
Assisting Bonnie Sutton
Serving David Terry Harold Davis
..... Paul Hasting..... Jordan Lovell
Closing PrayerJerry McGlocklin

Evening Worship

Announcements Marty Adams
Song LeaderTodd Williams
Prayer Ronnie Locke
PreachingDavid Cox
Lord's Supper Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer Tyler Cox

Other Assignments for Sunday,February 12th:

Usher Delmer Carter
Work Sound System Nathaniel Adams