

Want to Know More?

Are you interested in understanding more about the Bible and God's plan of salvation for humanity? Please visit our website for the following resources

- Audio Sermons
- Bible-based Articles
- Lessons from the Sermon on the Mount

www.jonesroadchurch.org

Please Join us for Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

10:20am & 5pm - Worship

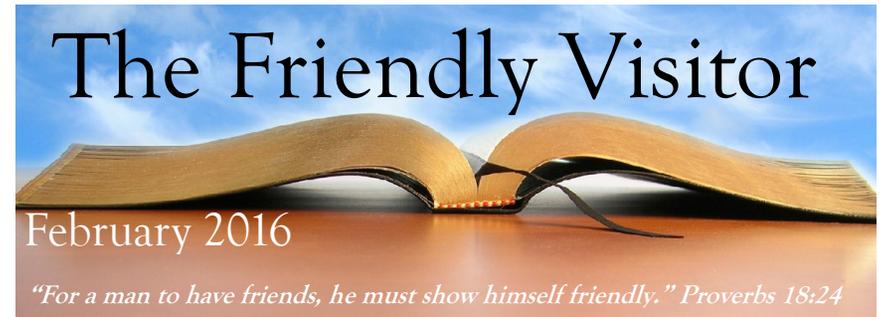
Wednesdays

7pm - Bible Study

Jones Road Church of Christ

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Few people have not heard about the Pharisees and Jesus' frequent clashes with them, but do you really know why they so hated Jesus and why He challenged their practices and even referred to them as hypocrites? On the homepage of our website you will find a link to a lesson entitled *If It Weren't for the Pharisees*. We believe it will challenge your thinking and perhaps force you to rethink your beliefs about Jesus, the Pharisees, and obedience.



Say What?

John R. Gibson

What would you think about me if I were to advertise the following series of lessons to be preached on consecutive Sundays?

- ◇ *The Bible Teaches Infant Baptism*
- ◇ *The Bible Teaches Against Infant Baptism*
- ◇ *New Testament Baptism: Sprinkling, Pouring, and Immersion Are Equally Valid Options*
- ◇ *New Testament Baptism May Only Be Done by Immersion*
- ◇ *Bible Baptism Is Intended to Remove the Guilt of Inherited Original Sin*
- ◇ *Bible Baptism Is an Act of Obedience Performed by the Saved*
- ◇ *Bible Baptism Is the Way the Saved Are Admitted to the Church*
- ◇ *Bible Baptism Is Necessary for One to Be Saved*

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, **one baptism; one God and Father of all....”
Ephesians 4:4-6**

Would you shake your head at my confusion? Would you wonder about my sanity? In all seriousness, if I or any man whom you believed to be sane announced he was going to preach those lessons, you might feel compelled to say something like the following.

“You can't have it both ways on infant baptism. I don't know for sure what the Bible says, but if it's from God it can't teach it as both the thing to do and at the same time forbid it.”

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“You claim the Bible is an inspired book, so how can it teach that only one method of baptism is valid while at the same time teach that there are a number of options. That doesn’t make sense.”

“You need to get this purpose thing figured out. You are completely contradicting yourself about why people should be baptized.”

If I preached this many different, contradictory things, you would have every reason to be concerned about my study habits, my reasoning ability, my honesty, or even my sanity, but have you stopped to think about the fact that all of these different, conflicting doctrines are regularly taught by multiple people and most people accept that as normal and will even celebrate the freedom to choose? But if one man is wrong to insist the Bible is both for and against infant baptism, how can it be any better when two preachers claim the Bible is teaching different things? The point of this article is not to look at what the Bible says on any one of these subjects, but to get us all to realize something is wrong. Jesus spoke to the importance of truth when He said the truth will make us free (John 8:32) and we need to ask ourselves how we got to the point that we are willing to treat two completely contradictory statements as equally true.

Paul once wrote that he was sending Timothy to Corinth to “remind [them] of his ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church” (1 Cor. 4:17). Again, if one man taught the same things everywhere, shouldn’t two men? Stop and think about the implications of our willingness to accept one man preaching baptism as necessary for remission of sins while another teaches it to be the way one who is already saved enters the church. By accepting both of these mutually exclusive positions as “truth” found within the pages of Scripture, are we not accusing God of contradicting Himself?

The intent of this article is simple—please realize something is wrong and be determined to sort it out by getting back to the Book, an inspired guide which will not contradict itself (2 Tim. 3:16, 17). Won’t you have the attitude of those in Berea who “searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11)? Before you accept anyone’s teachings as truth, you need to consider a couple of warnings sounded by Jesus.

“They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into the ditch.” Matt. 15:14

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your

name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’ ” Matt. 7:21-23

If you are ready to sort through this confusion to find the truth, I would love to help you with that. I won’t ask you to accept “my doctrine,” but will gladly sit down with an open Bible and help you learn that truth which can set you free. Come visit, give me a call, or send me an email if I can help you wade through the confusion and contradictions.



The Indestructible Word

“Then Jeremiah called Baruch the son of Neriah; and Baruch wrote on a scroll of a book, at the instruction of Jeremiah, all the words of the LORD which He had spoken to him” (Jer. 36:4).

“So the king sent Jehudi to bring the scroll, and he took it from Elishama the scribe’s chamber. And Jehudi read it in the hearing of the king and in the hearing of all the princes who stood beside the king. Now the king was sitting in the winter house in the ninth month, with a fire burning on the hearth before him. And it happened, when Jehudi had read three or four columns, that the king cut it with the scribe’s knife and cast it into the fire that was on the hearth, until all the scroll was consumed in the fire that was on the hearth” (Jer. 36:21-23).

“Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah, who wrote on it at the instruction of Jeremiah all the words of the book which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire. And besides, there were added to them many similar words” (Jer. 36:32).

Know that God’s word will still stand if we ignore it or even go as far as Jehoiakim and seek to destroy it. Since the word lives and abides forever (1 Pet. 1:22-25), let’s not fight against it. Instead, let’s receive it with meekness and be doers of it. “Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves” (James 1:21-22).

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