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Interested in understanding more about the Bible and God's plan of salvation for humanity? Please visit our website (www.jonesroadchurch.org) for the following resources.

- Audio Sermons
- Bible-based Articles
- Recordings of various classes, including an ongoing study of the book of Acts.
- We can also be found on Facebook (Jones Road Church of Christ) and Twitter (@jonesroadchurch). Email: study@jonesroadchurch.org

Please Join us for Bible Study and Worship

Sundays

9:30am - Bible Study

10:20am & 5pm - Worship

Wednesdays

7pm - Bible Study

Jones Road Church of Christ

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"You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out another way? For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also." James 2:24-26



The Friendly Visitor

September 2017

"For a man to have friends, he must show himself friendly." Proverbs 18:24

Bible Answers to Questions About Baptism

By John R. Gibson

Though forms of the word baptism occur more than 100 times in the New Testament, the average person is probably not that concerned about its importance, for many do not see it as a vital element in man's obedience to God. In fact, the majority of people I encounter believe that baptism has nothing whatsoever to do with one's salvation. But what does the Bible teach? Consider with me a few questions and biblical answers related to baptism.



Can we reject the stated desire of the One possessing all authority and still be saved? "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you...'" (Matthew 28:18-20).

How could anyone who has refused baptism feel a complete confidence in their salvation when the Savior Himself linked baptism to being saved? "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he

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who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15, 16).

Since “for the remission of sins” meant to bring about the forgiveness of sins in Matthew 26:28, doesn’t it seem most likely that when Peter used the same expression about fifty days later he intended it to have the same meaning? “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins” (Matthew 26:28). “Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’ ” (Acts 2:38). If baptism for the remission of sins is unnecessary, was the blood Jesus shed for the remission of sins unnecessary?

Is there a significant difference between suggested and commanded? “And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48). Don’t forget that Jesus is “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9).

Since Lydia was baptized after her heart was opened by the Lord, does the refusal of baptism not suggest a closed heart? “Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us....The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay’ ” (Acts 16:14, 15).

If the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ are the very core and essence of the gospel (1 Corinthians 2:2; 15:1-4), and baptism is directly tied to all three, what are we to conclude about the importance of baptism? “Or do you not know that 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” (Romans 6:3, 4).

Is it important to be in Christ where all spiritual blessings are found (Ephesians 1:3)? “For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:26, 27).

It is our sincere hope that all who see this will ask these questions and thoughtfully consider God’s answers to them. And if you have never been baptized in the name of Jesus, please consider carefully the question asked of Saul of Tarsus three days after the Lord had appeared to him. “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).

If we can help, please contact us.

Brief Thoughts from Our Facebook Page

Crime, drug addiction, children being abused, racial unrest, corruption in politics, wars, and the evidence of this world’s darkness goes on and on. While it can be disheartening, there is One who can change things. There will still be darkness all around us, but we can be part of something better—a realm of light that will one day lead us to the eternal Light. Please let us know if you would like to know more about the deliverance God has wrought in the Son of His love.

“He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.” Col. 1:13-14

“Dead flies putrefy the perfumer’s ointment,
And cause it to give off a foul odor;
So does a little folly to one respected for wisdom and honor.”
Ecclesiastes. 10:1

Because a moment’s folly can do much and lasting harm to our reputations and influence, lets give thought to all our actions, including posts on social media.

While we tend to think of idolatry as an issue we moderns have outgrown, the reality is that too often our desires, even as we are engaged in religious activities, have supplanted God’s will and made idolaters of us. Let’s be certain we are worshiping and serving God and not ourselves.

“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

