

Upcoming Events

Meet Up Open Bible Study:

For study subject and location: see church website

Thanks to our Speaker Today

Mike Odorizzi

Scriptures to Remember!

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you also were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.”

Ephesians 4:4-6

February Birthdays

8 Zoie Perales

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
(Vacant)

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Jesus Desired Baptism

Kevin Cauley

Jesus never told anyone not to be baptized. There are some religious people today who will go where Jesus never went. They will tell you that you don't need to be baptized to be saved. This was not Jesus' attitude toward baptism.

In fact, when He went to be baptized, John tried to tell Him that He didn't need to be baptized, and Jesus rejected John's statement saying, *“Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness”* (Matthew 3:15).

Even Jesus saw the necessity to be baptized *“to fulfill all righteousness.”* This means that if Jesus hadn't been baptized, He would not have fulfilled all righteousness. Jesus also rebuked those who refused baptism. He said in Luke 7:29-30, *“And when all the people heard, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.”*

After Jesus was raised from the dead, He told His followers to go make disciples of all nations by baptizing and teaching (Matthew 28:19-20). He also said, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be condemned”* (Mark 16:15-16).

Jesus even supervised the baptisms of perhaps thousands of people. *“Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples)”* (John 4:1-2).

This last passage implies that a person couldn't become a disciple without being baptized. Yet, in light of all of this evidence, many today will say that baptism is unessential. What Jesus are they following? Let's follow Jesus and not the opinions of men.

United Again

By David A. Sargent

10 months. That's how long Dr. Anne Hampton was unable to see her father, Chris, age 87, face-to-face. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Steppes care home in Nailsworth, Gloucestershire, England where Chris resides, went on lock-down back in March, 2020. Since then, Dr. Hampton has only been able to see her father through a window at the assisted living facility. On January 1, 2021, however, Dr. Hampton was able to see her father up close, even if it was through the shield of a PPE (personal protective equipment) uniform.

Dr. Hampton jumped at the opportunity to join a medical team in administering the Covid-19 vaccine to the residents in The Steppes care home. "When I realized we would be vaccinating The Steppes care home, I just thought this would be an amazing opportunity to take part in the vaccination program — and also to be able to get to see dad in a safe way," Hampton said.

On January 1, Dr. Hampton, adorned in her PPE, went to The Steppes care home to administer the vaccine to 22 patients. The first one she inoculated was her father.

"Hello Dad, I've come to give you your vaccination today, to stop the virus," Hampton said in a tender moment caught on camera. Hampton later explained, "He didn't recognize me at first in all of my PPE but it's been lovely to see him, just briefly, and start him being protected."

Hampton and all the world is hopeful that the vaccine will help defeat this dreaded virus that has kept us separated from our loved ones. We long to see and to be with our loved ones, face-to-face in the same room, with no masks or barriers between us.

S e p a r a t e d .! That word speaks to a painful reality. It is a word that describes what our sins do to our relationship with God. Isaiah the prophet told the people of Judah: "*Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear*" (Isaiah 59:1-2). Because of our sins, we are separated from God and doomed.

But God loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son to die on the cross for our sins (John 3:16; Romans 5:8). Through Jesus, we can be saved from our sins and reconciled with God (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from sin in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). The atoning blood that Jesus shed in His death will not inoculate us from sin, but it will keep us cleansed and in fellowship with God as we continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

What a glorious reality with eternal blessings: we don't have to be separated from God anymore! We can enjoy relationship, fellowship, and union with God – all because He loves us so much that He made reconciliation possible through the gift of His Son.