

Upcoming Events

Business Meeting: April 14

Ladies Bible Class: April 21

Panera Bread Open Bible Study: Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m.

Hebrews class Thursdays at 11:00

“Baptism...saves you”

“...God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you...” 1 Peter 3:20-21

March Birthdays

28 Sandra Jones

30 Barrett Hoffman

April Birthdays

1 Daniel McKnight 3 Amanda Hoffman 6 Susan Hudson

16 Alana Hudson 17 Belva Meanor

23 Shannon Hudson

26 Stori Rose Hoffman

April Anniversaries

19 Bill & Kena Brown

Indio Informer

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“Choose for Yourself Today Whom You Will Serve”

Joshua 24:15

Why is it that some people walk away from scriptural teaching regarding baptism? Why do some preachers in turn promote the misunderstanding that baptism is optional. Many in the world speak against baptism by setting it against God's grace, as if we have to choose between God's grace or obedience to be baptized for the reason stated in the scriptures i.e. “forgiveness of sins.” Why is it that grace and obedience have to be separate? Or, that somehow being “saved by grace and not by works” nullifies God's plan as laid out in scripture showing that the grace of God can be found in doing what He commands. We must be careful to understand that any who choose to dismiss baptism as an “unnecessary outward sign” is stating that salvation can be found while still being in our sins...something that is contrary to what is seen from the beginning with Adam and Eve, who were removed from the presence of God after they had sinned. Sin brings about death to both soul and body. Sin separates us from God. We are taught that those who die in their sins will be kept separate from God in heaven by residing in eternal punishment (Mark 16:16/John 4:36). So why would anyone refuse the necessity of baptism as commanded by our Lord when its purpose is for the “forgiveness of our sins”?

Let's be clear. The act of immersion (baptism) is in no way a work that earns one's salvation. Baptism is something one must do in faith, trusting the Lord. It is in faith that one is led to be baptized because in baptism we are promised by God to receive something that we could not obtain on our own: the love, mercy and grace of Jesus Christ in the forgiveness of sins.

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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Faith (our trust in the Lord) comes by hearing and following what the Bible teaches (Romans 10:17; James 2:17-20). So what promises of God does the Bible teach that we are to trust and obey regarding baptism? Here is what the Bible says about baptism:

- Baptism “saves.” It’s not an outward act, but rather an inward plea of faith to God to obtain a good conscience - something we don’t have if still in our sins. (1 Peter 3:21)
- Baptism is where we are “born again”. (Jn. 3:1-7).
- Baptism is necessary to be “saved”. (Mk. 16:16).
- Baptism “washes away our sins”. (Acts 22:16).
- Baptism is for the “forgiveness of our sins”. (Acts 2:38).
- Baptism is where we are “crucified with Christ”. (Gal. 2:20; see Rom. 6:5).
- Baptism is essential to be a “disciple”. (Matt. 28:19).
- Baptism puts us “into Christ”. (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27).

Baptism for any other reason than to obtain the forgiveness of sins is not following what God has set in place. Baptism for any other reason is not scriptural and those who do so for something other than to be reconciled to God (by having our sins removed) have not acted in faith based upon scriptural correctness. In baptism, our sins are forgiven and therefore one is no longer kept from God; therefore, those who are baptized for some other reason than what God has said, have not obtained salvation through the grace of our Lord. How can one be saved while still residing in their sins without the blood of Christ?

If baptism is optional, why did Peter tell the multitudes of people that they needed to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins? (Acts 2:38); and why did Peter say to his companions “*Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized*” once the Spirit of God had come upon Cornelius’ household, showing the Spirit wasn’t enough (Acts 10:47-48); and why did Paul go through the trouble (being in what I am sure was a lot of pain) of baptizing the jailor and his house after midnight instead of waiting for a more convenient time as do some denominations today? (Acts 16:25, 33); and why did the eunuch insist on baptism when water was found in the desert where he could be immersed instead of

waiting until he returned home to “show/prove his faith to others” (Acts 8:36-40). Baptism is where our sins are first forgiven and continue to be forgiven because in baptism we become partakers of Christ death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6:1-7).

God has given us everything we need for life and godliness in His Word and His Word teaches that those who want to be His disciple (follower) must be baptized in faith for the forgiveness of sins (Matthews 28:19-20, Mark 16:16).

I have no doubt that anyone who questions, or has turned away from, the necessity of baptism are sincerely seeking the Lord; however, to do so is to ignore the plain, simple truth of what scripture teaches. I realize there is immense pressure from our friends in the religious world to conform to a different teaching on the subject. For some, their arguments and accusations that all must live in faith and that we cannot save ourselves seem to be convincing. But then we must ask ourselves, who carries more authority? For some it seems that peer pressure to be accepted and be accepting is more important than the word of God. What does it mean to be sanctified, i.e. to be set apart from this world? What does it mean to be justified from our sin? Can one be sanctified or justified without baptism? Another way of asking this is, can one be sanctified and justified while still living in their sins and being separated from the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Acts 2:47, 4:4, 9:31)?

Those who refuse the necessity of God’s salvation which includes the necessity of baptism, live not in faith and trust in God. If God knows the hearts and intentions of all men, who are we to judge His plan. As Joshua says to Israel, “*choose for yourself today whom you will serve*” In similar manner we too must challenge ourselves by asking whether we will follow the Lord or will we follow men who preach something contrary to holy scripture? (By Mike McKnight)

Jesus, Himself said...

“He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved...”
Mark 16:16