

Thank you, Alexis Brown ...
...for being our speaker for today!

September Birthdays

6 Melinda McCollum
11 Marie Burruss
15 Marcos Perales
16 Jim Burruss
30 Kurt Hoffman

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the
Lord is, there is freedom."
2 Corinthians 3:17*

Regular Meeting Times

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

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*"Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding."*

Proverb 3:5

- *"Fight the good fight"*
- *"Keep the faith"*
- *"Finish the course"*

Why do we need to be baptized?

By Doy Moyer

In short, we need to be baptized because the Lord told us to do it (see Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-5; Colossians 2:11-13; Galatians 3:25-27; 1 Peter 3:20-21, and other passages). That should be enough for the one who wishes to do the will of God. Yet, let's go further to try to understand more.

Aren't we saved by the blood of Jesus? Yes! But if the blood of Jesus saves us from our sins, why do we need to be baptized? There are two statements to consider:

Jesus in Matthew 26:28, while giving instructions for the Lord's Supper, said, *"for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."* He is clear about the fact that His blood was given so that our sins can be forgiven.

Now notice what Peter said in Acts 2:38 to those who wondered what to do to be saved: *"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..."*

The phrase, “forgiveness of sins” is the same in both passages. Is this a contradiction? Not at all. In fact, the two passages should be understood together. Let’s see how this works based on what the apostle Paul said in Romans 6:3-5.

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

Baptism is, essentially, a reenactment of (to conform to) the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Being baptized means that we have recognized our spiritually dead condition (see Ephesians 2:1-3). Then, baptism, which is a burial (immersion) in water, is “into His death” where He shed His blood. In other words, it is in baptism where we meet the blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and wherein we are raised up to walk a new life (see also Colossians 2:11-13).

We need to be baptized because the Lord teaches that this is where we are buried “into His death” and come out with a new life. We invite you to look further into this matter, check out the passages, and weigh your decisions carefully.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”

2 Corinthians 3:17

What is the basic gospel message?

Doy Moyer

Gospel means “good news,” and we, as Christians, want to spread this good news as far and wide as possible. While there are many teachings that are part of God’s word, the most basic message of the gospel is what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4:

“Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared...”
(then he enumerates the many to whom Jesus appeared).

Here Paul says this was the most important teaching, and we see that the basic message of the gospel is this:

1. Christ died for our sins and was buried.
2. Christ was raised on the third day.
3. Christ appeared to many.

This serves as the basis for our faith, for Paul says that if Christ was not raised, *then our faith would be in vain* (vv. 12-19). Because Jesus died for our sins, and because He was raised from the dead, we may have our sins forgiven and maintain the hope for eternal life with Him. Death has been defeated in Christ. This is, indeed, good news!
