

Eisenhower Church of Christ

“Baptism Doesn’t Do Any Good”

Most people argue against the necessity and efficacy of baptism. Many think it is a useless relic from the past. Others divorce it from any saving power.

Yet, some see baptism as a “cure all.” To them, baptism is a magic action through which one passes which immunizes them against any danger of future spiritual disease. The truth lies somewhere in between. **Baptism Does Not Do Any Good if...**

- 1. It is not preceded by correct understanding.** “And many of the Corinthians, hearing believed, and were baptized” (Acts 18:8). Scriptural baptism requires that one hears and understands that Jesus, the Son of God, died for all (John 3:16; 8:24) and that all sinners must obey Him in order to be saved (Hebrews 5:8-9). It is possible to be immersed without understanding the reasons for it. For instance, many babies are baptized, but do not have a correct understanding, so their “baptism” does no good.
- 2. It is not preceded by proper faith.** “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). One must believe that Jesus is Divine before his baptism is Scriptural. Further, one must believe that he is lost without baptism for it to be Scriptural (I Peter 3:21). If a person does not believe he needs to be baptized and will be lost if he is not baptized, then his faith in God’s plan is lacking. In the Bible, only sinners are told to be baptized (Acts 2:26-38; 22:16) and one who is baptized just to please parents, spouse, in-laws or friends has not been Scripturally baptized.
- 3. It is not preceded by true repentance.** “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38). Those unwilling to repent need not be baptized. If one does not intend to quit drinking, cursing, smoking, committing adultery and lying, why be baptized?
- 4. It is not preceded by a Biblical confession.** “The eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:36-37). Most do not make this confession at their baptism. Many say something like, “I believe that God for Christ’s sake has forgiven my sins.” Where is this found in the bible? It is not! God forgives sins at baptism (Acts 22:16), not before. If one did not make a Scriptural confession prior to baptism, he has not been Scripturally baptized.
- 5. It is not an immersion.** “Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death” (Romans 6:4). Many advocate that one can be baptized by sprinkling, pouring or immersion. The Bible does not give such options, but calls baptism a “burial” (Colossians 2:12) and shows that it requires going down into the water (Acts 8:38). The word “baptism” literally means, “to dip, plunge or submerge.” If one was not immersed, then his “baptism” did not do any good.
- 6. It is not followed by faithful Christian living.** “Then they that gladly received His word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:41-42). Occasionally, a person is baptized and never darkens the building’s

door again. Some come for a time but then fall away. Others may continue to attend services, but their lives mirror the world instead of the image of Christ (cf. Romans 12:1-2). In such cases, baptism did not do any good because ultimately (without repentance) they will be lost.

Those baptized incorrectly were told to be baptized again—correctly (Acts 19:1-6). Why not do so if you need to? Then baptism will do you good!

—Allen Webster

Prayer Request

Ezekiel Martinez (son of Alex and Barbie Martinez) was involved in an auto and 18 wheeler accident. He was bruised badly and has lots of pain. Ezekiel is undergoing therapy.

Brother Miguel Lozano has requested prayers for his up-coming trip to Mexico. He plans to visit several congregations there and see how the brethren are doing. Our prayers are that Miguel will have a safe trip there and also a safe return back home.

Amanda Zuniga has requested prayers for her **grandfather** who underwent surgery last Saturday, April 10th to have two polyps removed. Her grandfather also has several ulcers. He needs prayers.

Concerns Update

Teressia Weaver had a CAT scan done first; a PET scan was scheduled for Thursday, April 15th. Teressia will get the results from these tests on Friday, April 23rd; then they will know where to go from there.

Doug Guynn is getting a port installed for immune therapy treatment. This should help him gain some strength. Keep him in your prayers.

Caimee Anne Mooney's prescribed medication is working so no further tests are needed.

Alex Martinez has lost the sight in his left eye. He saw a specialist in Abilene on Wednesday, April 14th to see if they can save the vision in his right eye. Needs prayers.

Barbie Martinez has in-home dialysis for now. She will see a doctor in two weeks to be set up for a kidney transplant. She needs prayers.

Prayer List

Maria Anaya; Wayne Anderson; Petra Baca; Betty Branson; Betty Brooks; Bill & Mary Brown; Abessa Chavez; LaDonna Chism; Jon Cooper; Andrew Durfee; Jazmine Duron; Dana Erwin; Tim Garvin; Hattie Gilmore; Irma Gomez; Paul Gunn; Cody Guynn; Doug Guynn; Opal Hager; Phil Halbert; Liz Leach; Mildred Lee; Betty Leeth; Miguel Lozano; Alex & Barbie Martinez; Ezekiel Martinez; Ora McAfee; Glenna McCarty; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Jackie Rex; Corina Rodriguez; David Ryan; Diane Salinas; Gary Schwulst; Bill Tate; Velma Tolbert; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Janet Wesson; Carolyn Wilkerson; Charles Wood; John Wood.

Eisenhower's Shut-ins

Roberta Hamil; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Youth

Bible Quiz Question ... Fill in the Blanks

“And He was _____ with the transgressors, and He bore the _____ of many, and made _____ for the _____”.

Last Week's Bible Quiz Answer ...

True. (Genesis 6:7) "All were corrupted by the wickedness of the human race and He was sorry that He had made them. (v5).

Events Watch "*In Search of the Lord's Way*" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

Our second "**Singing Workshop**" with Myron Bruce is scheduled for April 24-25.

Graduation Shower...

You are invited to a "**Graduation Celebration Shower**" honoring Joshua Weakland who will graduate from Permian High School on May 29th. His shower will be Sunday, May 16th from 2-4 PM. Hostesses are Mirta Garcia, Kallie Wesson, Larriat McGhee, Elizabeth Armendarez, Ashley Carson and Patsy Mitchell.

Excuses Won't Work

One of the many lessons taught in the Scriptures is that the Lord will not accept excuses in the place of obedience. This apparently has been a difficult lesson for man to learn through the centuries. Some of the most prominent men and women in the Bible have tried to "excuse" themselves from obedience to God's will but it did not work—and reader friend, it won't work today!

"The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate" (Genesis 3:1). Here we have the first instance of "passing the buck" in order to justify self. It didn't work!

When Adam failed, Eve tried. "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat" (Genesis 3:13). Did she really think she had no responsibility in the matter?

"So they gave it to me, and I cast it into the fire and this calf came out" (Exodus 32:24). How about this for an "explanation" of how the golden calf came to be in the camp of Israel!

"The people spared the best of the sheep and oxen, to sacrifice to the Lord" (I Samuel 15:15). Did King Saul really believe that one can disobey God and worship Him at the same time and it be acceptable?

I was afraid, and went and hid your talent." (Matthew 25:25). However, the one-talent man came to understand that opportunity plus ability equals responsibility. How many of us try to excuse ourselves from duty because of fear?

What about you? Do you offer excuses for not worshipping; visiting the sick, shut-ins, or weak members; and for not otherwise working in the kingdom? As was the case with God's people of old, excuses just won't work! A day of reckoning is coming!

—Jimmy Ferguson

April 18, 2021

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer
Closing Prayer

A.M.

Larry May
Craig Wesson
Allen Weakland
Larry May
John Wood
Don Easlon
Oliver Hernandez

P.M.

Larry May
Oliver Hernandez
Allen Weakland
Larry May
Scot Straw
Jackie Perkins
Richard Siler

Lords Supper

Scripture Reading:

Cody Wesson

Bill Ryan

Communion

(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Larry May 638-3990 – *Deacon:* Jr. Munoz 212-2231 – *Pulpit:* Jacob Carson 940-3775– *Table:* Bill Ryan 352-4871– *Song Leaders:* Larry May 638-3990–
Recording Sermons: Tommy Garcia 312-5332 – *Collections:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“Dangers of Doubt”

(I Samuel 27:1)

Sunday PM

“Preaching the Cross” Pt. 2

(I Corinthians 1:18)

Our Records

Bible Class – 65

Morning Worship 92

Evening Worship 52

Wednesday... 47

Contribution... \$3,880.00.