

Today's Sermons
 Morning: "The Truth About Salvation"
 Evening: "Question & Answer"

BIBLE QUESTIONS
 (Answers Next Week)



41. What two chapters give a description of heaven?
42. Quote the first verse in the Bible.
43. Quote the last verse in the Bible.
44. What is the first question in the Bible?
45. Who said: "In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die"?
46. Who said: "Ye shall not surely die"?
47. What king ate grass?
48. Who said: "What I have written I have written"?
49. How many books in the New Testament end with the same word?
50. Did Dorcas do her good works through some "club" or "society"?

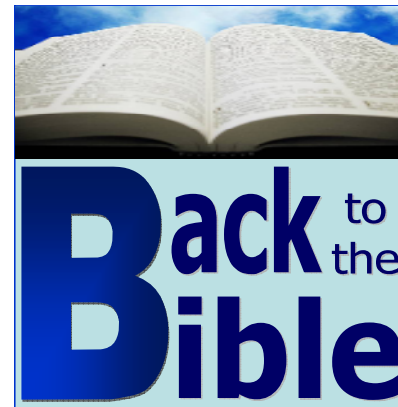
Answers to Last Week's Bible Questions
Did you get them all?

31. **Woman of Samaria.** John 4:9-26.
32. **Job.** Job 16:2.
33. **Joel and David.** Acts 2.
34. **Yes.** 2 Corinthians 11:8.
35. **Acts 2:47.**
36. **In his kingdom.** Matthew 26:29.
37. **Amos.** Amos 3:3.
38. **Jesus to Martha.** John 11:23.
39. **Yes.** 1 Corinthians 7:39.
40. **Elijah.** 1 Kings 19; Romans 11:4.

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	28
Sunday AM Worship	43
Sunday PM Worship	25
Wednesday Bible Study	28
Daily Bible Readers	10
Offering	\$ 1459
Building Fund	\$90,777

For Audio Lessons, Past Bulletins, Bible Studies and More
<http://www.wjchurchofchrist.org>



Minister:

Tim Canup
preacher@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday
 Bible Study:..... 10:00am
 AM Worship:....11:00am
 PM Worship:.....6:00pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS

14th Annual Lectureship
Thought Provoking
Questions From the New
Testament – Part 2
 September 23-25, 2011

We Extend A Warm & Cordial Welcome To All Our Visitors!

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Volume IV

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Number 23

WATERED-DOWN BAPTISM

By Allen Webster

When we water something down, it is diluted, weakened, and made less potent. In the old days, taverns "watered-down" firewater to make it go further. (I've been in restaurants that did the same thing to ketchup for the same reason.) Some medicines are "watered-down" so they will not be too strong for children. If paint becomes too thick while setting in a shed, it may have to be "watered-down" before it is usable.

In religion, some things have been watered down. In a decadent age of loose morals, many religious teachers have "watered-down" the Gospel to make it more appealing to vice ridden baby busters (Gal. 1:6-10). We are told: "Its okay to drink, just don't get drunk," "Dress provocatively, but don't go naked," "Gamble if you want, if it's for a good cause, or entertaining, just don't become addicted," "Sex before marriage is acceptable, so long as it is between 'consenting adults.'" Thus homosexuality sexuality is blinked at, gambling sanctioned, social drinking permitted, immodesty defended, dancing promoted, and adulterers accepted without question (cf Rm. 1:24-28; Rut. 12:17; Prov. 23:29; Eph. 6:18; 2 Tim. 2:9; Gal. 5:19-21, Mt 19:9).

CONTINUED INSIDE

Prayer List

Kaleb Davis
Karen, Jolie & Tulsa
Mable Vannoy
Eugene Kidder
Susie Bright
Rick Barr
Jim & Amanda Winters
Wanda Hardin
Joe Richardson
Jessie Earp
Debbie Matkins

Mary Nell Osborne
Blanch Barker (cancer)
Doris Black
Savannah Bedenbaugh
Kiana Miller
Roy Rash
Wanda Pless
Roger Coldiron
John Richardson
Lindy Hiatt
Shirley Johnson & Family

Tulsa Howell
Gladys Holden
Linda Miller
Clayton Winters
R C Barry (stroke)
Steven & Jessica Winters
Angie Snyder
Vivian Jones Family
Christy & Tanner Grogan
Jean Miller
Bible Studies



Doctrinal matters have not escaped the water bucket either. Change agents within the walls of Zion have “discovered” grace is not only unmerited but unconditional. Since culture has changed, women are not to be denied leadership roles. Instrumental music, once a innovation, is now offered an invitation. Pentecostalism and Premillennialism were once debated but are now propagated. The Holy Spirit used to work only through the Word, but now He moves in mysterious ways.

that the dead man is buried so a new man can arise and be alive unto God. That does not discount the fact that God removes sins in this act of obedience Jesus said that it saves (Mk. 16:16). Peter proclaimed it “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) and “commanded” those of Cornelius’ house to submit to it. Paul said that it puts one “into Christ” (Gal. 3:26,27), where all spiritual blessings are (Eph. 1:3, including salvation, 2 Tim. 2:10). Peter later said that baptism ‘saves’ (1 Pet. 3:21). Baptism “to show you have been saved” is watered down. It has lost its potency. BAPTISM TO “OBEY GOD” INSTEAD OF UNDERSTANDING ITS PURPOSE.

Lately, some have been willing to accept into fellowship those who were not baptized for the remission of sins. They rationalize that one who was baptized knew that he was doing so to “obey God,” so that would be sufficient. The only thing wrong with that it is not true not true! While it is good to want to obey God, one cannot “obey God” without “understanding God's will.” Jesus said, “It is written in the prophets, And they shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me” (Jn. 6:44,45). The Biblical order in conversion is learning and then coming to God, not coming to God and then learning.

Every religious action in the New Testament has a spiritual meaning behind it. There are no unnecessary rituals. One cannot misunderstand the meaning and still complete the action acceptably. Take the Lord's Supper for instance. Can one eat the bread just to “obey God” and not understand that it represents His Body and do so in a manner well pleasing to God? Of course not (Mt. 26:28). And neither can a bath or a dunk in a swimming pool accidentally become a baptism.

Paul found some in Ephesus who had been baptized incorrectly. Though they had been immersed, and had done so to “obey God,” they were lacking in their understanding of the Holy Spirit and the coming of Christ (Acts 19:1-6). When they learned that they did not properly understand baptism under the Great Commission. they were baptized again. Notice that since they were taught wrong, their baptism was wrong. No man can be taught wrong and baptized right.

When one is being baptized, he must have faith that God is removing his sins. Examine Paul's words: “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead” (Col. 2:12). God performs an operation in the water. He does not cut away a cancerous organ or a diseased limb, but He does remove sin from the soul. We must have faith in that operation and in the Operator in order for it to be successful.

Frequently in Bible studies, a sincere person who has learned what the Bible teaches about baptism will ask, “Do I need to be baptized again?” The answer lies in the answer to this question, ‘What did you understand when you were being baptized?’ Did you understand that Jesus was the Son of God? If not, you could not be baptized Scripturally (Acts 8:37,38). Did you understand that in this act God would forgive you of your sins? If not, then the baptism could not have been Scriptural since that is what the Scriptures teach.

Often the person cannot remember what he/she did. This is remedied usually by finding out who taught and baptized them. If it was a preacher for a particular denomination, then one can readily ascertain that he taught whatever that denomination believes. If that group teaches that baptism is unnecessary for salvation, then he would not knowingly baptize one “for the remission of sins.” Further not only would such a one nor understand the purpose of baptism, he would misunderstand it. How could he go into the water thinking, “This is not for the remission of sins since they were forgiven at the point of faith.” and then it still be for forgiveness of sins? Don't settle for watered down baptism. Get the real thing.

Announcements



FELLOWSHIP MEAL
Today, Following Morning Worship

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING
LADIES' BIBLE CLASS
Tonight, Following Evening Worship



SINGING AT MARGATE REHAB
June 13, 6:30 pm