Today's Sermons

Morning: "Lord, Tell Us Plainly"

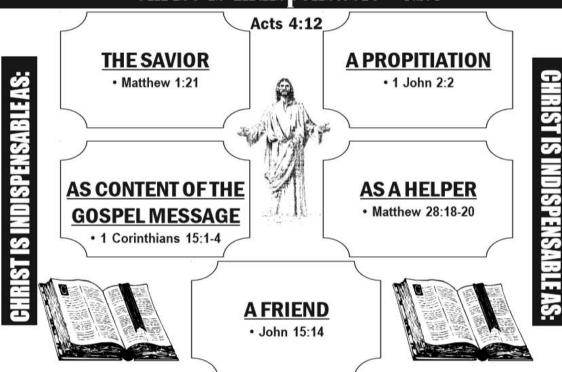
Evening: Saul, A King Consumed with Jealousy

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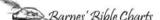
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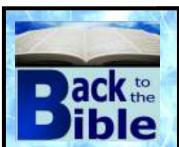
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Sunday AM Worship		p 59
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Wed. B	Wed. Bible Study	
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Christ is Indispensable - Part 1



WHAT IS CHRIST TO YOU?





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Minister:

Tim Canup tim@wjchurchofchrist.org

Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am AM Worship:...11:00am PM Worship:...6:00pm 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

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

Radio Program
Sunday:......7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WKSK
93.5 FM

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

A Thought About Baptism (Acts 2:38)

Tim Canup

When speaking of baptism, controversy usually arises. Such ought not to be. If one has an honest heart, they will search God's Word to see "What saith the Scriptures?" If one desires to know the truth about baptism, then the truth can be found in God's Word.

In Mark 16:16, Jesus commanded baptism as a condition for salvation. Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit on His apostles (John 14-16) and on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) that promise was fulfilled. The purpose of this promise was so that the apostles would be "guided into all truth" (John 16:13). In Acts 2, being overwhelmed (baptized) by the Holy Spirit, they {The Apostles – TAC}, begin guided by the Spirit, began to preach to Gospel, which is based on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ (verses 14-36). At the conclusion of that sermon, there were some who were pricked in their heart and asked, "What shall we do?" Peter answered by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

Continued Inside

The controversy of this verse is on the use of the Greek preposition (eis – pronounce ace) that is translated as "<u>for</u> the remission of sins" in the King James Version. Some so-called Greek scholars have offered a definition of this preposition in this particular verse as "because of". However, of the 1773 times this preposition is used, not one time can it be accurately translated "because of." The real meaning of this word is "in order to, for, with a view to". It always looks forward, never backward.

To determine if a definition is accurate, simply plug it into the sentence and see if it makes sense. Notice the use of this word in Matthew 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for (eis) the remission of sins." Did Jesus shed His blood "because of" the remission of sins (because sins had been remitted or forgiven), or did He shed His blood in order to (or for the purpose of) the remission of sins? It was in order to remit our sins. Another example is Acts 3:19 "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that (eis) your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord." Again, are we to be converted because our sins may be blotted out? Of course not! In the July 1877 issue of the Baptist Quarterly, J. W. Willmarth, a well-respected Baptist preacher and Greek scholar correctly noted that to translate the Greek preposition *eis* as "in order to" is to translate it correctly.

When Jesus stated the conditions for salvation, He was very clear; Jesus said, based on our faith, we are to be baptized for the remission of our sins (in order to have sins taken away). We are now faced with the decision of choosing between what Jesus said and what men say today. What will be your choice?

A Thought about Baptism (the Thief on the Cross) Tim Canup

It has often been suggested that the thief on the cross is an example of one who was saved without being baptized. In Luke 23:43, Jesus said to one of the thieves on the cross with Him, "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." It is true this thief was saved; however, let us honestly consider the account of the thief and see if truly it is an "example" of salvation without baptism for us.

Although the thief was assured of being in Paradise with Christ, we cannot

assume that he was not baptized; the Bible simply does not mention anywhere whether he was or not. John the Immerser preached a baptism of repentance (compare Mark 1:4). He could very well have been among the multitudes that came to John at the Jordan River to be baptized in Matthew 3:5-6, we simply do not know.

There is a more important aspect to consider. When the thief died on the cross, he had lived and died under the Old Testament law. Jesus had not yet entered into Heaven (the Holiest of All) and sprinkled His blood on the mercy seat (Hebrews 9:6-15). If the thief was saved without baptism, then consider he was also saved without the blood of Christ. You see, the New Covenant (or Testament) had not yet been put into force. In fact, when this thief died, Jesus had not even given the command to be baptized for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16, Matthew 28:19-20). John had been preaching the baptism of repentance (Matthew 3:2) and after the first day of Pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus the Christ (Acts 2), John's baptism was no longer valid or in effect (compare Acts 19:1-7). The thief simply was not subject to baptism for the remission of his sins as taught in the New Covenant.

Many have attempted to use Romans 10:9 to support their claim that baptism is not necessary to salvation. Paul wrote, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Dear friends, not only was this thief saved without the great commission baptism of Mark 16:16, but he also was saved without faith. Notice Paul said that if a person "...believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Jesus was still hanging on the cross when He promised this thief Paradise; He had not even died yet, neither had he been raised.

"No man ever spoke like this Man!" (John 7:46).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Feb 3 Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Feb 4 Preacher's/Elders Meeting @ Warners Chapel 10:00-12:00
- Feb 10 Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- ➤ Feb 24 Song Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell