



### Today's Sermons

Morning: The New Testament Will  
Evening: How To Stand Fast in the Lord

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Volume XII February 17, 2019 Number 07

#### Minister:

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#### Times of Services:

##### Sunday

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

##### Wednesday

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

##### Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am  
"Back to the Bible"  
AM 580 WSKS  
93.5 FM

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

### A Thought about Baptism (I Peter 3:21)

Tim Canup

Thus far in this series, we have discussed Jesus' command to be baptized in Mark 16:16. We noted Peter's answer to those who asked what to do to be saved in Acts 2:38. We showed that the thief on the cross is not a proper example for us living today. We demonstrated that baptism is where one contacts the blood of Christ that saves (Romans 6:3-4) and that baptism is how one gets into Christ (Galatians 3:26-27), where salvation is (II Timothy 2:10). Yet many deny that baptism is necessary for salvation. Many do so because of a misunderstanding of I Corinthians 1:17 (which we will discuss in our next article).

One person once said, "If only the Bible just came right out and said that baptism saves, I would believe." The Bible does. "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:21). The person who made the above statement upon reading this passage responded by saying, "I see it, but I don't believe it!" They were dishonest with God's Word! Many are not even aware these words are in the Bible. The word "figure" is used to make a comparison; just as Noah was "saved by water" (verse 20), Peter points out that "baptism doth also now save us."

*Continued Inside*

## Characteristics of A Great Church

- A Sharing People**  
Philippians 4:14-16
- A Loving People**  
Philippians 1:9-10
- A Righteous People**  
Philippians 1:11
- A Unified People**  
Philippians 1:27-28
- An Obedient People**  
Philippians 2:12-13
- A Humble, Submissive, Servant-Hearted People**  
Philippians 2:4-8
- A Growing People**  
Philippians 3:12-16
- A Pilgrim-Minded People**  
Philippians 1:9-10
- A Prayerful People**  
Philippians 4:4-7
- A Pure People**  
Philippians 4:18
- A Looking People**  
Philippians 3:20
- A Faithful People**  
Philippians 1:10

Barnes' Bible Charts

Noah was not saved from water, but by the water; he was saved from the wickedness and corruption that was in the world (Genesis 6:5-7). The parenthetical statement explains that baptism is a spiritual cleansing, not a physical one; baptism washes away our sins (Acts 22:16). I am not saying that the Bible teaches that it is the water that saves (or even baptism alone); however, baptism is where we contact the blood of Christ that saves. God put water in the plan; who can argue with God?

With an understanding that men today teach that salvation comes at the very moment of faith, without any further acts of obedience (including obedience to Jesus' command to be baptized) read the following passage from your own Bible (please be honest) – I Peter 3:21:

\_\_\_\_\_ “Baptism doth also NOW save us.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “Baptism doth also NOT save us.”

Now, read Jesus' words in Mark 16:16, Jesus said:

\_\_\_\_\_ “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”

\_\_\_\_\_ “He that believeth and is saved shall be baptized.”

Are you willing to be honest with both yourself and God's Word and accept His commandments for the purpose He has given them? Jesus has commanded us to have faith in Him (John 8:24), to repent of our sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as the Christ (Matthew 10:32-33) and to be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16).

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### A Thought about Baptism (I Corinthians 1:17)

Tim Canup

For several weeks we have discussed the controversial subject of baptism. This has not done to attack those who deny baptism is a part of God's plan to save; but rather, to stir honest hearts to consider what God says about it in His Word. There have been many faulty arguments against baptism, all of which have been adequately answered. Let us honestly consider a passage (in its proper context) that has been offered as “proof” baptism is not necessary.

Paul wrote, “For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect” (I Corinthians 1:17). Was Paul really saying that baptism is not necessary for salvation? We must consider the context of any Bible passage in order to properly understand it. Paul was writing to deal with the problems within the church at Corinth, such as that of division.

Paul wrote, “For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house* of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” (verses 11-13). In verse 10, he pleaded with them, “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and *that there be no divisions among you*; but *that* ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.” Because of their attitude toward other men, Paul said, “I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius” (verse 14). Why? “Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name” (verse 15).

In verse 17, Paul elaborated on what he had said. Paul did not mean that he did not baptize because it was not important, but rather, he had been commissioned to preach the Gospel, which is God's power unto salvation (that is, by obedience to its commands). It was not Paul's commission simply to put people down into water; that is, to simply carry out the act of baptism. In preaching the Gospel, it was not up to Paul to make people respond to it. Baptism is part of the response, as well as faith and obedience to Jesus' commands for repentance and confession. We cannot honestly take this passage and conclude that baptism is not part of God's plan to save men and ignore all the other passages in the New Testament, which indicates that it is; such as, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4; I Peter 3:21.

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*“Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.” (Hebrews 2:14-16).*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Feb 24 – Song Service
- Mar 3 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Bible Class
- Mar 10 – Daylight Savings Time Begins; Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Mar 24 – Song Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell