

How "by One Spirit" Baptized?

I Corinthians 12:13 - "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit." [NKJV]

The Holy Spirit played an important role in the birth of Jesus when He came upon Mary and she conceived (**Luke 1:34-35**). Likewise, the Spirit plays an important role in baptism (**I Cor. 12:13**). Just as the Spirit was involved in the physical birth of Jesus, He is involved in the spiritual birth of Christians.

Jesus told Nicodemus that for anyone to enter into "the kingdom of God" he must "be born of water and of the Spirit" (**John 3:5**). The water is the physical element of baptism. The Spirit is the spiritual or the power element of baptism. In **Titus 3:5** we read "according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration [water, the physical element of baptism]." It is the Spirit who renews a person when he is baptized.

Water is simply the physical manifestation of what is spiritually happening when a person is baptized.

Man can physically place a person in the waters of baptism but man cannot raise a person out of spiritual death into life (**Rom. 6:4**). The Spirit does that.

When a person is baptized, his fellow man places him in the water and the Spirit places Him in Christ.

When a person is baptized, his fellowman raises him out of the water - wet, while the Spirit raises him out of death - alive.

You cannot be baptized by the Spirit into Christ unless you are baptized by man into water. These are not two separate acts, as some teach, but one simultaneous act, for there is only one baptism (**Eph. 4:5**).

Thus, in order to become a Christian a person's physically body must be baptized by a human in water as a symbol and physical act of obedience, while his spirit is baptized into the "one body" by the Holy Spirit. You cannot be in Christ unless you are baptized by the Spirit. You will only be baptized by the



Classes This Week				
Sun Night College Class at the Davis'	Mon 12 Noon Campus Class	Mon 7 PM Ladies' Class at the Davis'	Thur 11 AM Campus Class	Thurs 7 PM James Study at Jillian Petty's

Sick			
Fran Snyder (Mother of Carla Humphrey)	Lori Holloway	Chick Wade	Sandlyn Fultz (David Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Carrie Chavers (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Jared Nixon	Philip Locke (Jeremiah Johnson's Uncle)
Ross Folmar	Grandparents of Mary Ann Roberts	Joe Perry (Anna Miller's Relative)	Toni Herd
Ed Mort (Friend of Sharon Bailey)	Kenn and Ellen Smith (Ken Sullivan's Parents)	Erlene Davis (Walker Davis' mother)	Daphne Whatley (Lisa Lanier's Mom)
Gerald White (Christopher's and Wesley's Father)	Dave Brown (Friend of the Lanier's)	Bill Rhodes (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Mike Reed (Friend of the Long's)
Marty and Aubrey Meeks (Toni Herd's Nephews)	Frank Johnson (Debbi Coleman's Uncle)	Herbert Missildine (Toni Herd's Uncle)	Jo Faust Williams (Manna Jones' friend)

December Birthdays
1 - Preston Guthrie
4 - Justin Padgett
5 - Rusty Weldon
5 - Charlie Johnson
8 - Macy Johnson
10 - Kyle Gibson
11 - Will Holcomb
12 - Hannah Marsh
13 - John Henderson
16 - Clint Armstrong
18 - Tin-Tau Tam
18 - Hannah Liu
21 - Holly Johnson
21 - Alison McFerrin
22 - William Herd
24 - Jessica Yates
24 - Ryan Yates
24 - Andrew Thigpen
30 - Holly Law
30 - Ben Price

News and Notes

Let's remember our expectant mothers: Joy Liu, and Amanda Stephens .

Wade and BJ Winslett have a little girl, born on Thanksgiving afternoon, 11/25 at 2:30 p.m. Her name is Olyvia Madison Winslett, born 4 lb, 10 oz, 18 in. All are doing well.

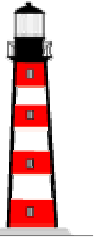
There will be a teacher workshop for upcoming quarters on Sun Dec 5 from 2-4:30 PM. All teachers should come and all mothers who wish to learn about "Our Spiritual Heritage" curriculum are invited.

Let us continue to give thanks for the answered prayers for the safe return of those who travelled this week!

Audio CD's will be available in the foyer after each service.

The Auburn Beacon

A weekly publication of the University church of Christ in Auburn, Alabama



Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

Volume 2, Issue 4 November 28, 2010

Quitting Church

By David Diestelkamp



Thought to Ponder

Tolerance applies only to persons, but never to truth. Intolerance applies only to truth, but never to persons. Tolerance applies to the erring; intolerance to the error.

Do You Have a Bible Question?
Call (334) 734-2133 or E-mail: LarryRouse@aubeacon.com

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

Bible Class9:30 AM
Worship10:20 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

Ask about our home Bible Study Groups!

Larry Rouse
Evangelist and Editor

The anticipatory words of Jesus, "I will build My church..." (**Mt 16:18**) have lost their luster with a lot of people today. Some in the denominational world are fed up, discouraged and distracted--and are quitting. Some are seeing their churches as man-made institutions and are tiring of leaders marketing to them as though they are consumers.

Others have come to expect churches to be more like non-profit organizations and less like religious groups--they easily become dissatisfied and move on, becoming serial quitters as they frequently shop for a group with more amenities.

Brethren are often tempted by this trend. The lure of greener grass, something new and exciting, different relationships, and less structure, lures them to quit assembling with God's people. And local churches feel the shrinking numbers and are tempted to respond by trying to meet people's perceived needs with unlawful activities and unscriptural teaching.

Christ's church faces an attack from people who want to be spiritual, but don't want anything to do with a church. They view quitting church as

Remember where you're going. It's easy to get distracted by the temporal things that this life has to offer; they cause us worry and tempt us to throw in the towel and quit. They make service to God seem less important and perseverance impossible.

quitting organized religion, as quitting an outdated organization which is out of touch with modern life. They want to claim to believe in a perfect God without the hassle of having to associate with imperfect people (Christians). They wonder if Jesus had lived today if He would have said, "I will build my website," or "Just stay home and read my blog."

Why The Church?

In the broadest sense, the church is all people who have been purchased by the blood of Christ (**Eph 20:28**). Christ adds people to this number when they obey Him and are saved (**Acts 2:38, 47**). In this sense, the

(Continued on page 2)

Check Us Out On the Internet: www.aubeacon.com

(Continued from page 1)

church exists as an expression of the collective possession of Christ. Those who say they want nothing to do with the church are therefore saying they do not want to be one of the saved.

Those who reject all concepts of the church are rejecting Christ and His sacrifice for them. However, most who reject the church will say they are leaving the people—they want Christ, but not “organized religion.” It might be said they want to be one of the people of God, but not physically with others who are His people.

The word church is also used to describe a group of disciples in a common location who worship and do spiritual work together (example: **1 Cor 1:2; Phil 1:1**). Assembling with, working with, and worshipping with other faithful disciples is Christ’s will (**Heb 10:24-25; Ac. 11:26**). Disciples may choose with which faithful disciples to assemble and work (**Acts 9:26**). But Christ expects His disciples to be “... longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (**Eph 4:2-3**). That means the solution to problems, conflicts, and dissatisfaction isn’t to just leave. Resolving problems, not quitting, is to be a high priority among disciples because what we do together as Christ’s church glorifies Him (**Eph 3:21**) and edifies each other (**Eph 4:16**).

Those Who Leave

Most importantly, quitting must never involve or lead to quitting the Lord. It often does. Personal desires and goals may make exchanging our souls by quitting seem worth temporary rewards (**Matt 16:26**). Frustrations, disappointments, and problems involving our lives and other people must not cause us to abandon Christ and His church.

Ultimately, irreconcilable differences over truth or edification may cause us to choose to work and worship with different faithful disciples. Unfortunately, most who leave do so because of hurt feelings, personalities, certain doctrinal teachings, and disagreements over matters of opinion. In the heat of problems or in the despair of dis-

couragement, quitting may seem an easy solution, even what is best. However, love should unify disciples, making giving up and quitting our relationships unimaginably painful.

Those Who Stay

Those left behind often feel hurt, abandoned, and angry. Problems are left unresolved and some who were involved aren’t even around to help clean them up. Like Samuel, God has to remind them, “... they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me” (**1 Sam 8:7**). Pride must give way to sorrow over the breaking of fellowship and the loss of a soul if in quitting they have left the Lord.

Preachers, elders, teachers and saints would do well to do serious soul searching when people quit. It isn’t right for people to quit, but those who cause offenses share in the guilt (**Matt 18:7**). Not every quitter’s charge is true and not everything they are looking for can legitimately be supplied by the church, but not all complaints are false. “Test all things” (**1 Thess 5:21**)

God

In the decision to quit or stay, God is often forgotten. The whole concept of the church is disdained because of the frailties of man. What is ignored is that the church is a visible demonstration of the “manifold wisdom of God” (**Eph 3:10**). He adds to the number those who are being saved, but some respond by saying, “I want to be spiritual, but not linked to anyone else.” He gives His people other disciples with which to work and worship so His name can be glorified and they can be built up, but some say, “No thanks! The work required to get along with each other isn’t worth it.” We honor God when we value being His church.

God knows there will be those who go, “...out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us” (**1 Jn 2:19**). God knows some will quit, whether they realize it or not, because they simply do not want to be His people as He wills them to be. Continuing with God’s people is His will and to quit His people is to quit Him.



God’s Facebook

By Steve Klein

For those who are not familiar with it, Facebook is a very popular website. Through Facebook, users can keep up with what is going on in the lives of friends and acquaintances. Each person’s Facebook page typically contains a photo of the person and the latest news in that person’s life. Facebook is now the largest social networking site on the internet and has more than 200 million members worldwide. It’s really just a way of keeping in touch with a lot of people.

God already knows what is going on in our lives. He keeps up with us every moment. As David said, “You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether” (**Psalms 139:2-4**). If we are doing things we shouldn’t, God knows that as well. As He said of sinners long ago, “I remember all their wickedness; now their own deeds have surrounded them; they are before My face” (**Hosea 7:2**).

God wants us to keep up in touch with Him. He wants to communicate with us about it what is going on in our lives, and He wants us to communicate to Him about it. If our hearts are right, we will want to stay in contact with the Lord. David put it this way in **Psalms 27:8**, “When You said, ‘Seek My face,’ My heart said to You, ‘Your face, LORD, I will seek’”.

We can allow God to stay in contact with us by

God already knows what is going on in our lives. He keeps up with us every moment. As David said, “You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off. You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether” (**Psalms 139:2-4**).

learning His word; in this way we come to know Him face to face! In **1 Corinthians 13**, the apostle Paul informs us that when God’s perfect word had been completely revealed, He would stop using temporary means of revealing Himself (such as prophecy and miraculous tongue-speaking). Paul says, “When that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.” (**1**

Corinthians 13:10). Through God’s perfect word we can come to fully know Him. “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known” (**1 Corinthians 13:12**). It is in learning God’s will for us that we can experience His presence daily in our lives. The Psalmist says, “Make Your face shine upon Your servant, and teach me Your statutes” (**Psalms 119:135**).

We can keep in touch with God through prayer. The Lord calls upon His people to “humble themselves, and pray and seek My face” (**2 Chronicles 7:14**). Daniel said, “I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications . . .” (**Daniel 9:3**)

One of the great privileges of being a Christian is the ability that we have to keep in touch with God every moment. Many men living in other times and places have not enjoyed such a privilege. But the Lord made this promise concerning us: “I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,” says the Lord GOD” (**Ezekiel 39:29**).

