

Baptism for the Remission of Sins is Salvation by Faith

It will not be denied that the doctrine of baptism "for the remission of sins" is a Bible doctrine and is very clearly taught in the New Testament (**Acts 2:38**). It is impossible to use language that more clearly teaches that baptism is unto the remission of sins than does the New Testament....

In the light of so many scriptures which teach forcefully and unequivocally the doctrine of baptism unto the remission of sins (**1 Pet. 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col. 2:12, Mk. 16:16**), it is very puzzling to understand why so many Protestants oppose this doctrine and undertake to prove that it not true in the face of the clear and positive teaching of the word of God. This they are not able to do satisfactorily to themselves.

It is not so much that they want to oppose the word of God, but more because they desire to uphold the doctrine of "justification by faith," and are at a loss to see how baptism can be "for the remission of sins" if "justification is by faith." They lose sight of the truth that "baptism for the remission of sins" is "justification by faith." There is no conflict between "justification by faith" and "baptism for the

By J. C. McQuiddy

remission of sins." As the key fits into the lock, so "baptism for the remission of sins" fits into "justification by faith." But some, losing sight of the fact that baptism is not a work of righteousness (**Tit. 3:5**), classify it as a work of righteousness, and on that ground deny that it has any part in the plan of salvation, since we are not saved by works of righteousness. There can be no justification by law.... Salvation is not of the works of the law, but of faith in Christ Jesus: "For this cause it is of faith, that it may be according to grace..." (**Rom. 4:16**.)

Faith is a work of the mind. "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent." (**John 6:29**.) It is not a work of merit. It simply appropriates the salvation that grace provides and offers. It is in no sense a work of righteousness. While baptism saves us, it is in no sense a work of righteousness. Baptism is faith actualized; it is the expression of faith. The faith that justifies expresses itself in baptism. Hence, baptism for remission of sins is justification by faith.



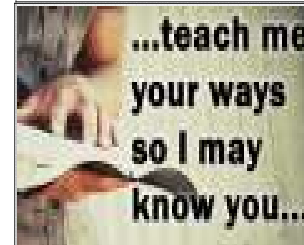
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Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. (**Matthew 5:16**)

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Thoughts to Ponder

Shew me thy ways, O LORD; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. (**Psalms 25:4-5**)

Have You Ever Been a Seeker?

By J. R. Bronger

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you" (**Matthew 7:7**). What does this passage mean to YOU? In all your life, have you ever had to really seek, or is your spiritual commitment something passed down to you? Is your "faith" something you grew up with or are you where you are because you spent time seeking?

Jesus said: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (**Matthew 5:6**). Have you ever had a ravenous craving to know the meaning of righteousness and to experience it in your life? If you have, you know it. Those spiritual hunger pangs will keep you awake at night.

In my teenage years, the only time I went to a church service of any kind was when I was asked by a girl I was interested in. Having a love of the world (**1 John 2:15-17**) would have described me. Growing up as I did left no room for God. My wife, on the other hand, had been

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raised attending the Church of the Nazarene; her grandfather was a Nazarene preacher. Religiously, this was all she knew. Upon our marriage, the world conquered religion as we both engaged in carnal pursuits resulting in marital strain. My wife decided to return to her spiritual moorings and again started attending the Nazarene Church. After several Sundays I went just to be with her at first, but this changed as I listened.

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Sick

Brad Marshall (Allie Hosey's Cousin)	Owen Mauldin (Seth and Summer Mauldin's Son)	Frank Hand (Laura Humphrey's dad)	Sandlyn Fultz (Davis Fultz's Sister)
Gloria Detmer and Carol Dickerson (Toni Herd's Sisters)	Don Lanier (Father of Greg Lanier)	David Hartsell (Holly and Brad's Father)	Kate Miller (Daughter of Brandon and Erin Miller)
Betty Mcareavey (Mary Ann Roberts' mom)	Neal May (Manna Jones' Mother)	Mark Dean (Father of Logan Dean)	Jerry Foropoulos (Anna Jean's Uncle)
Jon Jon Henderson (Suzanne Stagner's cousin)	Quinton Addison (April Jerkins Grandfather)	Danny Weldon (Rusty Weldon's brother)	Bob Cannon (Friend of Holly Law)
Gerald White (Christopher, Anna and Wesley's Father)	Amy Baswell Hall	Emily Stallings (Anna's sister)	Ted Nelson (Sheryl Fowler's Cousin)
Lisa Carter (Josh and Luke Carter's mother)	Joe Perkins (Scott Perkin's Dad)	Toni and William Herd	Tom Davis (Walker Davis' Uncle)

December Birthdays

- 2 - Brady Peek
- 4 - Justin Padgett
- 5 - Rusty Weldon
- 5 - Charlie Johnson
- 5 - Drew Ogles
- 5 - Allie Hosey
- 7 - Michaela Walton
- 8 - Macy Johnson
- 13 - Dave Hosey
- 13 - Will Bruce Harris
- 14 - Beth Lingerfelt
- 16 - Cliff Parsons
- 17 - Joseph Miller
- 18 - Tin-Yau Tam
- 20 - Chris Zeannah
- 20 - Meredith Reid
- 20 - Micah Waters
- 21 - Holly Johnson
- 22 - William Herd
- 22 - Laura Abell
- 22 - Carter Burns
- 24 - Ryan Yates
- 24 - Jessica Yates
- 27 - Jacob Neeley
- 28 - Ebony Morrison
- 28 - Turner Stephens
- 28 - Gabby Borden
- 29 - Christian McGee
- 30 - Holly Law
- 30 - Justin Miller

News and Notes

- ☒ - Lets keep in our prayers our expectant mothers, Laura Humphrey, Brittany Bagents, Shang Li and Jana Hall!
- ☒ - Please remember Toni Herd's cousin, John Marvin Rhodes, in your prayers as he is seriously ill.
- ☒ - Remember Tim Morton in your prayers as he is deployed to Afghanistan.
- ☒ - Congratulations to those graduating this week!
Angela Fowler - Doctoral
Anna Stallings - Master
Mary Catherine Burns
Caleb Law
Jessica Yates
Bethany Marchman
- ☒ - David Tant from Atlanta will be speaking tonight!

Elders

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES Sunday

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

Wednesday

Bible Classes.....7:00 PM

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One Sunday I felt a need to respond to the altar call, convinced I was a sinner in need of salvation. The choir was singing, the minister was pleading and the atmosphere was soul stirring. I was brought "under conviction" and hurriedly made my way to the altar, fell on my knees and began praying that God would save me. I

wanted Christ in my heart and in my life. My life changed dramatically after that night. I became involved in the Nazarene Church as a Sunday school teacher. I sang in the choir, participated in the Nazarene Young People's Society, and helped with the "bus ministry." I gave salvation "testimonies" both at work and at church. We also had Bible studies in our home several times each week. These Bible studies would forever change our lives; they became the first step in a long journey.

We did not leave the Church of the Nazarene because we found the people to be insincere hypocrites. Nor did something happen to offend us. The truths we learned in those Bible studies led us away from denominationalism and into Christ. Those studies were like a double-edged sword. At first they comforted our hearts, but then slowly we began to be cut by learning we were not saved, despite our experiences at the altar—this was devastating. Feeling like children lost in a forest we did not know where to go or how to find our way. "Seek!" We attended Baptist Churches, Assemblies of God, and several other denominations; we were seeking!

One day while driving we tuned our radio to a religious program hosted by a gospel preacher and paid for by a local church of Christ in Louisville, Kentucky. "What is your question?" was the way the preacher/host took calls. After weeks of listening we realized these were people who "respected the

Bible as the authority of God." Authority? What's that?

Over the next several weeks we learned! We also learned the sinfulness of division; that there was no Bible authority for choirs, sprinkling for baptism, women preachers, and a host of other things we had believed and practiced. We learned that baptism is essential for salvation.

Our home Bible studies intensified; our seeking took on a sense of urgency. Gradually our close friends lost interest in those studies. The "Pastor" began to ignore our questions. Upon learning that we had been listening to a radio program paid for by a church of Christ, we were soundly warned not to have anything to do with "those people."

Despite the warning we visited the church of Christ for the first time on a warm June Sunday morning. We found a loving group of people who participated in simple acts of worship. They observed the Lord's Supper (**Acts 20:7**), sang psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (**Ephesians 5:19**), prayed (**Acts 12:5**), had preaching (**Acts 20:7**) and took up an offering (**1 Corinthians 16:1-2**).

The local preacher came to our home each week to study the Bible with us. After a few Bible studies, we were baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**). When we were, the Lord added us to His church (**Acts 2:47**), and our seeking bore the fruit God intended. Our hunger had been satisfied and our thirst quenched.

All this happened to us while in our early twenties. "Kids" with no desire but to love and serve God and with no guidance but the Scriptures; "kids" who were simply seeking to know the saving will of God.

I return to my initial question: In all your religious life, have you ever had to really seek?



A Jealous God

By Jim Jonas

The Old Testament scriptures speak several times of God's "jealousy." The Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament says this family of words "expresses a very strong emotion whereby some quality or possession of the object is desired by the subject. ... It may prove helpful to think of 'zeal' as the original sense from which derived the notions 'zeal for another's property' = 'envy' and 'zeal for one's own property' = 'jealousy'" (Vol. 2, p. 802).

When applied to God, the idea is that God is "jealous" for what rightfully belongs to Him. In explaining the first and second commandments (no other gods or images), God says, "For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me" (**Ex. 20:5**). God is the only true Supreme Being and as such deserves all reverence, glory and honor. It is a travesty against His nature and existence to have men invent gods with their own hearts and hands and offer to them what God alone deserves.

God promises to display Himself accordingly to Israel: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you" (**Ex. 34:10**). Then He warns the people: "for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God" (**34:14**).

The Old Testament depicts God as a husband and Israel as His bride. He is the one who nurtured Israel from birth to adult nationhood. He was the source of all blessings, and Israel freely

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entered into covenant promises to be loyal and faithful to God. Thus, when they forsook Him and went after idols, God considered their behavior as adultery, and He responded in a way that might be expected from a jealous husband: "And I will judge you as women who break wedlock or shed blood are judged; I will bring blood upon you in fury and jealousy" (**Ezek. 16:38**).

The divine rationale for the creation of man is a desire for fellowship and to share His goodness with cognizant, responsible beings. There is no justification within ourselves for our existence; God unilaterally decided to create us to satisfy His own purposes. When men thus reject that purpose and think they can justify their existence on other grounds, they are rejecting the very source of life itself.

God is true; all others are products of rebellion and selfishness. This He will not tolerate. In this respect, God is the one holding all the cards; we may decide either to live by His rules or forfeit our right to live at all. There is no third choice.

But the jealousy of God works for us as well. If we are faithful to Him, He will jealousy defend us, protect us and provide for our needs.

Of those who had humbled and plundered Israel God says, "Surely I have spoken in My burning jealousy against the rest of the nations. ... Therefore prophesy concerning the land of Israel, and say to the mountains, the hills, the rivers, and the valleys, 'Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I have spoken in My jealousy and My fury, because you have born the shame of the nations"' (**Ezek. 36:5-6**).

Our God is not to be trifled with.

(Hueytown Bulletin, March 10, 2002)

