

THE FRIEND OF TRUTH

Greensboro Road church of Christ

2008 Old Greensboro Road

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

(870-932-3920)

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Galatians 4:16)

SHEPHERDS

Dan Nichols

Randy Oden

Jody Pickens

DEACONS

Scottie Blanchard

Jerry Dodson

Mike Felts

Jason Garland

Marshall Lands

Mark Wooten

EVANGELISTS

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

Michael Hughes

Arnold Kelley

Guyana, South America

Samrit Kammanee

Warren, PA

SERVICES

SUNDAY

Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the Word of God

Romans 10:17

Believe the Word of God

John 8:24

Repent of your sins

Luke 13:3

Confess your faith in Jesus

as the Son of God

Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for the remis-

sion of your sins

Acts 2:38

Live faithfully

Revelation 2:10

Each One

Invite One

**Let Us Glean
In 2019**

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KeepNotes

Often in life we meet with tragedy and heartache. Recently we have had members who have suffered the losses of several good and beloved family and friends. When these times come we look to be comforted and to get beyond the pain that this brings. A good friend in West Virginia passed away as I am writing these lines. I loved and appreciated him in so many ways. I wish I could be with his good wife and children during this time to just be there for them and try to help them deal with their grief. But I'm not there and I can't put my arms around them and pray with them and be there for them.

So we ask ourselves what we can do when we are so troubled and distressed during times like this. The very first thing that comes to my mind is always, lean upon the Lord. We often lean upon the wrong ones to give us comfort. As Brother May taught us Sunday night, Judah tried to lean upon Egypt in time of distress, but Egypt could not help them (2 Kgs. 18:21). Many today try to lean upon denominations, worldly relationships, or their friends on Facebook to help them. Most often they are not comforted. They look to everyone but the Lord. Micah even talked about the Jews not leaning upon the Lord in their distresses (Mic. 3:11). No one ever finds lasting comfort in any of these.

However, James tells us to "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:8). Until we realize that He is our comfort and strength and we lean upon Him in our darkest hours we cannot and will not be comforted. How do we say we long for strength and comfort and bemoan the fact that we cannot find it, while not seeking the Lord or His comfort? Too often when heartaches abound in our lives we hide ourselves in our houses and do not come to the house of God to be with the family of God and rejoice with the saints of God. We do not hear the good news of Jesus Christ and our heavenly home and cannot receive any comfort because we do not receive His Word that has been promised to comfort us (1 Thess. 4:18). If we truly want and need to be comforted and relieved, we must come to the God of all comfort to be helped. God's house should not be the last place we seek to find comfort, but the first.

My friend in WV died last night while I was gathered with the saints. My friend, Buddy Ryan was gathered together with the redeemed of the ages while I was singing and praying and studying from the pages of God's Word. Buddy's family will all be at church Sunday with the saints and they will find comfort. I pray more of my brethren could rest in the Lord during such dark personal days and find the light.

Question For The Week: Where does the Bible say, "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD?"

RELIGIOUS ERROR BEING TAUGHT TODAY

"BAPTISM IS NOT ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION." # 2

Some will try to argue saying, "*The thief on the cross was saved and he was never baptized.*" But there are some conclusions one has reached without any evidence. No one can prove that this man never received John's baptism. Remember that Mark 1:5 states, "And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins." Who can say that this man was not among those baptized by John? Also please be aware that this man was never a subject of Great Commission baptism. He lived and **died** under the Law of Moses. Christ's law did not come into force until after his death and coronation as King (Read and analyze Heb. 9:15-17; Dan. 7:13-14; Acts 2:32-33, 36). If this is a valid argument against baptism, why did not those on Pentecost answer Peter and say, "But the thief of the cross did not have to be baptized?" Why did Paul not argue to Ananias, "But, the thief on the cross did not have to be baptized to be saved?" Acts 26:19 states: "Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision."

Then there are some additional arguments to show the necessity of baptism. Let me ask, is it necessary to obey God's commands to be pleasing to Him (John 14:15; John 15:14; Heb. 5:8,9; 2 Thess. 1:8,9; Rev. 22:14)? Baptism is commanded. It is not simply a suggestion (Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; Acts 10:48). There is not one biblical example one can find where God ever blessed anyone who refused to obey him. No one can be saved **outside** of Christ (cf. 2 Tim. 2:10; Eph. 1:3,7; 2 Cor. 5:17). So then a question — How does one get into Christ (cf. Rom. 6:4; Gal. 3:26,27)? The Bible plainly tells us that baptism is "*for the remission of sins*" (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). The Bible says that baptism *saves* (Mark 16:16; I Pet. 3:21). So then another question which we must ask, who is the "**he**" in Mark 16:16 that shall be saved? And then another question, can one be saved without having his sins forgiven, washed away, or remitted?

Now some will sometimes try to argue that "for" in Acts 2:38 means "because of." The Greek word used here is "*eis*". According to Greek scholars this word always looks forward to something to be accomplished, never to something that has already been accomplished. If the Holy Spirit had intended for those on Pentecost (cf. Acts 2:28) to understand that they were being baptized *because their sins had already been forgiven* he would have used the Greek word "*gar*."

In the record of the actions of the Apostles (the book of Acts) there is no hint that anyone was saved without first being baptized. Jesus commissioned the apostles to "go preach the gospel...baptizing them..." When the gospel was preached, those who responded favorably to it were baptized. The apostles carried out this commission by preaching the gospel and baptizing the respondents. There is not a single case of conversion in the Book of Acts without baptism. If so, please name one.

Paul must have thought baptism was important. He practiced it the same hour of the night in which the jailer believed (Acts 16:31-34). He even commanded some who had received only John's baptism to be baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 19:1-5). Baptism, like repentance and confession, is an act of faith. This faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17). If one refuses to heed the word of God on any subject, including baptism, he does not have the kind of faith that will save him (cf. James 2:14-24).

So the conclusion must then be that baptism is a command of God that must be obeyed in order for a person to be saved. Those who refuse to be baptized reject the word of God on this subject and will consequently be lost. If this is not the case then I cannot believe anything the Bible says about salvation and the means of achieving it.

Terry Joe Kee (from notes taken years ago; I am not certain of their origin)

Continued Next Week

Hebrews 7:1-4

Find the answers to the puzzle by filling in the blanks from this passage

C A N O R P G G N R P Y P Y L
 C E T Z R E R C E Z R L E S R
 B I D I R E H T A F H L A Y G
 K I E E A E H T E Z S A C A C
 V S G T S G H F O G I U E D P
 T S O M U I I G N M X N N S F
 A W A A K L H I I O G I D L M
 Y G L B Q I K C O H A T E I P
 S S R Y R Z U G L C A N S O E
 P A T R I A R C H E O O C P W
 V T L H M S H E B L M C E S F
 U I T E L Y O A F B N T N B H
 S O N P M E Y I M T E N T H P
 F B T L P J N D X N Y M H M B
 S S E N S U O E T H G I R D H

“For this _____, king of Salem,
 _____ of the _____ God,
 who met _____ returning from the
 _____ of the _____, and
 blessed him; To whom also Abraham
 gave a _____ part of all; first be-
 ing by interpretation King of
 _____, and after that also King
 of _____, which is, King of
 _____; Without _____,
 without _____, without
 _____, having neither beginning
 of _____, nor end of _____;
 but made like unto the _____ of
 God; abideth a priest
 _____. Now consider how
 _____ this man *was*, unto whom
 even the _____ Abraham
 gave the tenth of the _____.”

WEEKENDING

Over the more recent years three things in our living standards have combined to create one of the greatest threats to the church since its inception. Innocent and unassuming individually, these traits, combined with the catalyst of self-indulgence, can eat away at the strength of the church, the body of Christ. A problem exists. It is time we meet it head on.

The three factors are: (1) **Mobility**. We are living in the jet age. It is only a few short hours and we can be in Europe. The automobile can cruise at speeds today which can easily move us around the country all day long without slowing down. We have the ability to go. (2) **Financial Affluence**. We who live in America are rich! The poorest family living on government assistance has a far better income than 9 out of 10 families in the world. Why do you think so many risk their lives to cross into this country illegally? We have the money which allows us to go. (3) **Time To Spare**. The 40-hour work week has been the standard, with many working even shorter work weeks. Vacations and weekends are getting longer. Even one of the schools in Missouri is moving to a four day school week to allow more time to spare. National holidays have been arranged so that they fall on Mondays, to increase our weekends and give us time to go.

Spending time and money is a way of life for most. Brethren the implications of this mushrooming problem in the church and the effects it is having are hurting the church.

Regular “*Weekending*” is marring the value of Bible study and worship with the local congregation. Educators tell us that learning takes place best when we have a time and place for regular sessions of study. This is true with the Bible school too (2 Tim. 2:15). The regular learning process of those who are regularly away from home is slowed down or eliminated. Could an algebra student learn effectively if he visited different schools each week and studied from a different place, even when using the same textbook? And yet, many brethren are constantly worshiping in different places each week. These are not forsaking, but are they growing to the glory of God? Just something to think about. *Terry Joe Kee (Thoughts from my readings)*

NEWS AND NOTES

REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

Virginia London has been having medical tests and will see her doctor on the 18th to receive results.

Linda Baker broke her vertebrae and is recovering at home.

Sympathy is extended to Wanda Cashion and Judy Moore in the passing of **Steven Sawdey**, Wanda's son-in-law and Judy's brother-in-law. He was also father-in-law to Brian Ballew. His memorial service was last week in Alabama.

IN OTHER NEWS :

The December Ladies' Night Out will be **Tuesday night, December 10, at 6:30** in the basement. There is a sign-up sheet on the table. All ladies are welcome to come and enjoy time together: *Meal and Hot Cocoa Bar -\$8.00 *Wear your "Ugliest" Holiday Sweater/Outfit! *Bring a happy/funny holiday family or personal photo to display. *Bring an ornament for an ornament exchange. If you have any questions, see Stacy Mosley or Martha Kee.

The Youth Group Holiday Baskets assembly will be **December 21**, and there will be more information soon about what is needed. Our young people always do such a good job with this endeavor of giving and assembling the baskets, then visiting the recipients.

It is time to update our directory. Please check your name and information on the pages in the foyer and make any corrections/updates needed. Please write "OK" by your name if the information is correct so we will know you have checked it.

Please add to the December calendar:

Birthday: Logan Snyder, December 14 Anniversary: Ben & Brandi Johns, December 19

Correction: Anniversary: Jimmie & Vicki Powell, December 21

Those Privileged To Serve

December 8, 2019

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

December 1, 2019

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Fred Horton
Opening Prayer: Mike Felts
Closing Prayer: Jeff Presley
Bible Reading: Kevin Roush
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Fred Horton
Opening Prayer: Barry Roush
Closing Prayer: Hillard Holcomb
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

Sunday Bible Study	89
Sunday AM Worship	128
Sunday PM Worship	107
Wednesday Bible Study	102
Contribution	\$6383

LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Jason Garland
Marshall Lands Scottie Blanchard
Jordan Pickens Mitch Mosley
Donnie Gilliland Samuel Light

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

(December 11)

Song Leader: Ben Johns
Opening Prayer: Collin Powell
Closing Prayer: Robert Stephens

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jody Pickens

Wednesday Devotional Speaker

Mike Felts

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

"Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee."

Proverbs 9:8