

## ANSWERING OBJECTIONS

J. A. McNutt

In 1983 I received a letter and a tract from a Baptist in Alabama, who attempted to convince me that baptism was not essential to salvation, but only saved us figuratively, not actually. Noah and his family were saved by staying out of the water, and “everyone in the ark was dry.” My reply was as follows, “Dear Sir, I appreciate your interest in writing and after reading your tract, *What Everyone Should Know*, I would like to propose a few questions relative to the essentially of baptism to salvation. An answer to these might help you to see things in a different light.

1. When baptism and the remission of sins are mentioned in the same passage, why is salvation always mentioned after baptism?
2. Redemption and remission of sins through the blood are said to be IN Christ (Col. 1:13,14). Now since we are baptized *into* Christ, (Gal. 3:26,27), how can we reach redemption through the blood without baptism?
3. Since we become new creatures IN Christ, (2 Cor. 5:17), how can one become a new creature without being baptized into Christ, (Gal. 3:27)?
4. Will one that knows that Jesus said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,” and yet refuses to be baptized by saved or lost?
5. Is baptism a part of the Law that came by Moses, or part of grace and truth which came by Jesus Christ?
6. If baptism is intended for the saved, and thus a Christian duty, why is baptism the only Christian duty that need never be repeated?
7. Is it true that the English word “for” may at times mean “because of” but the Greek preposition “*eis*” (Acts 2:38) is never rendered “because of” in any recognized Greek lexicon?
8. Since the phrase “for the remission of sins” in Acts 2:38 are exactly the same words found in Matt. 26:28 did Jesus shed His blood because our sins were already forgiven?
9. Which one of these two statements do you believe?
  1. Baptism doth now also save us (I Peter 3:21)
  2. Baptism doth not also save us
10. You seem to be saying that Noah was saved by staying out of the water, “Everyone in the ark was dry”...others were lost by being in the water. If you are a Baptist, didn’t you become one by getting into the water?
11. The blood of animals under the old covenant was a type or figure of the blood of Christ which would be shed for our salvation. Does the blood of Christ, typified by the blood of animals, only save us figuratively, but not actually, (Heb. 9:24)?

(continued on page 3)

12. I Peter 3:21 pictures two salvations
  1. The first is physical and temporal—a type
  2. The second is spiritual—the antitype
 Since God used water to transfer Noah from the old world into the new, can you not see that God used water baptism as one of the conditions of our induction into a new life (Gal. 3:26,27)?
13. Obedience to God is necessary before and after salvation from past sins, so how can you ignore the plain statements found in these verses:
  1. Obedience is necessary to entering the kingdom (Matt. 7:21).
  2. Paul was not disobedient in his conversion, (Acts 26:19).
  3. Obedience is necessary if we would enter into heaven, (Acts 22:14).

My friend if you die rejecting the essentiality of God’s command to be baptized, and teach others to reject the counsel of God against themselves (Luke 7:30; John 12:48), what do you think will be your fate?

This was my reply, but to this day there has been no answer.

## STOP SENDING THE CHURCH BULLETIN

J. A. McNutt

It was while I was preaching for the Second and Walnut church in Paragould, Arkansas, (*this would have been the late 40s or early 50s TJK*) that we were mailing out a printed bulletin to many residents in the area, which was gratefully received by some and resented by others, that I received a letter from Osceola, Arkansas. The letter was written by a lady that was very disturbed by what was being taught in the bulletin. In my opinion a bulletin is hardly worth the price of the ink and paper it is written on unless it teaches the gospel of Christ.

As best as I can remember this is what the letter contained. The lady was angry and quite upset. She was asking me to quit sending the paper to her home, that she was tearing it up and throwing it in the waste basket, or burning it or was never reading it.

After thinking it over for a moment, I thought she must be reading it, or she wouldn’t be so angry, so I sat down and wrote her a nice letter telling her that I did not know how her name got onto our mailing list, that possibly some friend had requested it for her. However, it was not our intention to try and force anything upon anyone, that we were doing our best to teach the truth. Then I asked her to consider this carefully, suppose what I was writing *was true*, and she would have to tell the Lord in the day of judgment that she rejected the truth, threw away the paper and burned it up.

I received no reply for a month or so. Then a letter came apologizing for her attitude and saying that she and her husband had attended the church of Christ in Osceola. She said that both had been baptized into Christ, and to please keep sending the paper.

(Both these articles on pages 2 & 3 were taken from the book *Life, Humor, and Biblical Briefs* by J. A. McNutt. Brother McNutt was a teacher I had years ago at the Memphis School of Preaching. He was a faithful preacher and a true Christian gentleman. TJK)

# NEWS AND NOTES

**“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)**

**Remember in Prayer:**

*Myra Preston* is in the Arkansas Continued Care Hospital, room 201. She has been suffering with pneumonia and other complications which have made her rehabilitation difficult.

*Donnie Gilliland* had a heart cath and received a stent this past Wednesday. He went home the same day.

*Tim Johnson*, James and Sandra’s son, has been admitted to the Regional Medical Center in Poplar Bluff, Missouri. He has blood clots in his lungs and additional complications but is improving.

Our sympathies are extended to the families of *Mittie Stallings* and *Hillard Holcomb* whose graveside services were this past week.

**Please check the bulletin boards for updates on Prayer Request Lists.**

Please update us if needed.

**Those directly or indirectly affected by the Covid-19 Virus**

**Mike, Becky and Nita Felts and Barbara Berry**

**In Other News:**

*Toddlers to teens and in between:* In the month of February, our studies have revolved around the love of God and Jesus for us, and the ways we can show love to each other. We have also looked at many of God’s amazing animals and we have been working on memory verses each week. Today is the last day for interim classes as we plan to go back to the modified classes with children 2 years old through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade meeting in the large North classroom and the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grades meeting in the large South classroom. Listen for an upcoming announcement about nursery class for infants to 2 years old and the teenage class for 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Those Privileged To Serve**

**February 28, 2021**

**SUNDAY MORNING**

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
Opening Prayer: Barry Roush  
Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris  
Bible Reading: Mitch Mosley  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

**LORD’S TABLE**

Presiding: Mike Felts  
Randy Oden Kevin Roush  
Reginald Read James Johnson  
Gerald George Jeff Presley

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dan Nichols

**SUNDAY EVENING**

Song Leader: Randy Oden  
Opening Prayer: Mark Wooten  
Closing Prayer: Craig Nelson  
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

**March 3, 2021**

Song Leader: *Singing Night*  
Opening Prayer: Mark Wooten  
Closing Prayer: Hal Baugh

**DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER**

**March 3, 2021**  
Mike Felts

**NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK**

**Week Of**

**February 21, 2021**

Sunday Bible Study 79  
Sunday AM Worship 99  
Sunday PM Worship 75  
Wednesday Bible Study 69  
Contribution \$5124

**“Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.”**

**Proverbs 23:4**

# The Friend of Truth

Greensboro Road church of Christ

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72405

(870) 932-3920

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

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## KeeNotes

This past Lord’s Day was blessed with two souls responding to the Lord’s invitation. Both were restored to their first love. First, Brother James Johnson came asking for our prayers to be directed to heaven and the Father’s throne in his behalf. Brother James confessed he had not always used the best tone and language in talking to nurses and hospital staff during his son’s recent stay at NEA Baptist. We rejoice to see such a tender heart and determined attitude desiring to walk humbly with God.

On Sunday night, Sister Sharon Wallace came confessing that she has not been faithful in her attendance and has failed to be the example she should be. She asked for our prayers to address the Father and to continue in prayer for her that she will be stronger in her faith. Sharon has had recent surgery and will likely be having more in the coming weeks and desires to be right with God as she seeks to walk by faith and deal with struggling health issues.

I am humbled by how many are watching the simple videos I am doing each week. I have now done six or seven of these and am receiving so much good feedback. Several from different areas of the country have seen the videos and asked to “friend” me to get more information about the church at Greensboro Road. So many have been sharing the videos with your friends which opens the door to more people being able to be taught. According to my searching it seems that about 1000 people are watching some part or all of the videos each week and many are writing comments. This is an evangelistic tool we are using and hopefully will bring fruit soon.

**SHEPHERDS**

Dan Nichols  
Randy Oden

**DEACONS**

Scottie Blanchard  
Jerry Dodson  
Stacy Eddleman  
Mike Felts  
Jason Garland  
Scott Pratt  
Kevin Roush  
Mark Wooten

**EVANGELIST**

Terry Joe Kee

**MISSIONARIES**

Samrit Kammanee  
Micah Robertson, Montana  
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  
remission of your sins  
Acts 2:38

*Live faithfully*  
Revelation 2:10

*“Lift up your eyes, and  
look on the fields; for they  
are white already to  
harvest.” (John 4:35)*

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**Each One Invite One  
in Twenty-One**