

## Six Reasons Why Denominational Baptism Should Be Rejected

Dan Goddard

Religious men have a peculiar knack of taking something the Bible teaches and revamping it to fit the doctrines of men; then passing it off upon an unsuspecting public as the genuine, scriptural thing. This has been done with *baptism*, *the Lord's supper* and the *church* itself. Hence, it should be kept in mind that a counterfeit article may resemble the genuine article in many ways, but the points of resemblance do not prove the counterfeit to be genuine! The Roman "mass" may resemble the Lord's supper, but it is not the Lord's supper. Some denomination may resemble the Lord's church, but it is not the Lord's church. Neither is denominational baptism pleasing to God just because it resembles the commanded of the Lord.

Denominational baptism is not scriptural baptism for the following six reasons:

**(1) WRONG AUTHORITY:** The various denominations do not permit men to baptize unless they are duly ordained by them. Hence, whatever may be done by such preachers in the matter of baptism is done by the authority of that denomination, not on the authority of Jesus Christ. Hence, the authority of Christ is not counted sufficient. The preacher must be ordained and authorized to baptize by the particular denomination. Again, these ordained preachers are only permitted to baptize such persons as meet the unanimous approval of the church which ordained them.

Persons desiring baptism are called "candidates" (indicating they are subject to a vote of the church) and are baptized only after the church has expressed approval by casting a vote in favor of it. Hence, such "candidates" are baptized on the authority of the denomination, not on the authority of Jesus Christ. This is the wrong authority. (Sometimes preachers in the church of Christ use the term "candidate" concerning a person to be baptized into Christ without thinking what they are saying. Brethren, "these things ought not so to be.")

The denomination puts itself in the place of the Lord in presumptuously authorizing sprinkling or pouring for baptism when the Lord has never even hinted at such a thing. Hence, the administration of such is done on the authority of the denominational church; not on the authority of Christ.

Denominational churches often authorize the sprinkling of infants and call it "infant baptism." Jesus Christ said people who are baptized should be first taught (Matt. 28:18-20; John 6:44-45) and should be believers (Mark 16:16). Since no infant can be taught the Gospel or believe it, Jesus never authorized infant baptism. Hence, infant sprinkling is performed solely upon the authority of the church which authorizes and practices it. Finally, denominational churches almost with one accord, deny the necessity of baptism to salvation. They say that God does not require sinners to be baptized in order to be

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saved. Hence, any baptism they may authorize is required by them merely as a condition of membership in their particular denomination of which the Lord never authorized anybody to become a member. Therefore, denominational baptism is performed upon a wrong authority.

**(2) WRONG ACTION, SOMETIMES:** In the case of sprinkling and pouring for baptism, denominations authorize the wrong action. The Bible describes baptism as a burial and a resurrection in water (Rom. 6:3,4; Col. 2:12; 3:1; Acts 8:35-39). Hence, the action in sprinkling and pouring is wrong.

**(3) WRONG SUBJECT:** First, infants are not subjects of baptism because they are incapable of faith and repentance (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). They are not lost; hence do not need to be saved, and if they did baptize them, baptism alone could not save them.

Second, denominations claim that people are saved before baptism. This has given rise to the expression "Christian baptism," implying that baptism is for Christians only. All Christian duties are repetitive (must be done repeatedly); therefore, if baptism is a Christian duty every Christian should be baptized repeatedly. But no saved person needs baptism, for baptism is "for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38), or in order to be saved (Mark 16:16). There is no such thing as "Christian baptism." Baptism is a command of the Lord, not an ordinance of the church. Baptism is an alien duty.

**(4) WRONG CONFESSION:** Denominational churches require the "candidate" to tell an "experience of grace" and/or to confess that he believes "that God for Christ's sake has pardoned" his sins. The Lord does not promise such pardon before baptism, hence those who so confess make a false claim whether they know it or not. The right confession is recorded in Acts 8:37.

**(5) WRONG PURPOSE:** Denominational baptism is not "for the remission of sins," but for the purpose of admitting one into the membership of a man-made church. The Bible nowhere instructs anybody to become a member of a denominational church; therefore, such baptism has the wrong purpose.

**(6) WRONG RESULT:** Denominational baptism accomplishes its purpose and puts the person baptized into a sectarian fellowship, brands him with an unscriptural name and binds him to an unscriptural creed. It puts him into a body which claims to contain only part of the saved; not into the body of Christ to which the Lord adds all of the saved (Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23), and fosters division which the Lord condemns (John 10:16; 17:20-23; 1 Cor. 1:10-15).

For these six reasons, denominational baptism should be rejected!

(Dan Goddard was converted from denominationalism and well understands the failings of denominational baptism. This article should help us show others some of the reasons denominational baptism is not a valid means of being saved from sins. TJK)

# NEWS AND NOTES

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

## Remember in Prayer:

*Judy Moore* had surgery Wednesday. Her surgery went well, and she is recovering at home.  
*Nina Carner* had surgery Monday, and she is also recovering at home.  
*Hilda Wilcox* is at home after her recent stroke and hospitalization.  
*Darlene Felts* continues to deal with sugar and other health issues and is in Lawrence Memorial Hospital in Walnut Ridge, Room 216.  
*Louis Preston* is recovering from a blood infection after his recent heart cath.  
*Boyce London*, great-grandson of Coy and Virginia London, has been hospitalized recently.

Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.

*Finn Manley*      *Manley family*  
*Violet Blanchard*      *Blanchard family*

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

## In Other News:

*Bible classes for 2 years through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are postponed till a date in August.*  
*More details will come soon.*

Also remember in Prayer: *Dustin Williams, son of Stacy and Mitch Mosley, who left last week for 12 months in Korea.*

Welcome Back – Here is the new address:

**Gerald and Sandy George**  
**701 Valley Drive**  
**Gerald: 870-219-5814**  
**Sandy: 870-219-5813**

## Those Privileged To Serve

July 26, 2020

### SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey  
 Opening Prayer: J. L. May  
 Closing Prayer: Steve Stoker  
 Bible Reading: Logan Snyder  
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

### LORD'S TABLE

Presiding: Mitch Mosley  
 Mike Felts      Mark Wooten  
 Reginald Read      Ryan Manley  
 Robert Stephens      Scott Pratt

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Randy Oden

### SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Noah Flanrey  
 Opening Prayer: Stan Honeycutt  
 Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris  
 Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT

July 29, 2020

Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard  
 Opening Prayer: Jason Garland  
 Closing Prayer: Hillard Holcomb

### DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

July 29, 2020  
 Micah Tindall

## NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

Week Of

July 19, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	67
Sunday AM Worship	105
Sunday PM Worship	79
Wednesday Bible Study	62
Contribution	\$4,794

**“The name of the LORD  
 is a strong tower: the  
 righteous runneth into  
 it, and is safe.”**

*Proverbs 18:10*

# 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

We have known from the beginning of all the changes we have had to make, that there would be a time when even more changes would come and many would have to be made “on the fly.” I also have known that if this virus continued, we likely would have some among us who would be personally infected. I only wish, if it had to be one of us, it would have been me. I am so very thankful that so many prayers have been uttered for all of us and especially for Violet.

Many of our members have been affected in a secondary sense by being in contact with one who had tested positive. Healthcare workers are almost constantly around those infected with this virus. I still feel so very blessed that none of our members have needed to be hospitalized or had serious consequences because of Covid-19. Our prayers continue to be for those infected and those caring for the infected ones. With every passing day we have some new restriction or concern being addressed by governmental agencies or politicians. It is hard as a congregation of God’s people to be sure we obey God first yet try to submit to civil authorities also.

With all these constant, continuing changes please keep our shepherds in your prayers as they are working to keep the sheep from being scattered. Trying to be sure we are all fed and nourished is not an easy task. Trying to be good shepherds is made more difficult when Satan can use our government against us and restrict us in our gatherings, fellowship, and edification. The longer this goes on the more sheep will be scattered and the harder it will be to get everyone back together and striving together in the faith, once and for all delivered. Let us continue to earnestly contend for and defend the faith (Jude 3; Philippians 1:17,27). May our manner of life bring glory to God and support for one another, our community, and the world.

Recently, we announced that we needed Hazel Scarborough’s new address if anyone knew it. We are so thankful that our sister Jeannie Dunn got in contact with Hazel’s daughter-in-law in Paragould, who called last week to thank us for keeping in touch with her mother-in-law. Her family is unable to visit her in person, and her condition is worsening, but she asked if we would like to send birthday cards to her for her August 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. If you would like to do so, you can either send your card separately using her new address on the table in the foyer, or bring a card and put on the table in the foyer to be mailed all together. Remember all those who are in nursing homes and shut-in during such lonely days.

Visit Our Website: [greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com](http://greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com)

### SHEPHERDS

*Dan Nichols*  
*Randy Oden*  
*Jody Pickens*

### DEACONS

*Scottie Blanchard*  
*Jerry Dodson*  
*Mike Felts*

*Jason Garland*  
*Marshall Lands*  
*Mark Wooten*

### EVANGELIST

*Terry Joe Kee*

### MISSIONARIES

*Michael Hughes*  
*Samrit Kammanee*  
*Arnold Kelley*  
*Guyana, South America*  
*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*

*“Where there is no vision,  
 the people perish....”*  
*Proverbs 29:18*

*God Give Us 2020 Vision  
 in 2020*