

News & Notes

Upcoming events: Every 2nd Sunday of the month we have an afternoon song practice. Ladies' Bible class is held on the 2nd Monday night of every month. The men's Bible class is scheduled for the 4th Sunday of each month. (Next Week).

Pray for the sick: Paul Lloyd, Marian Church, Butch Morgan, Jerry Jordan (Ken's brother is battling cancer), Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), and Forrest Cunningham (Butch Morgan's nephew is still recovering from a serious car accident). Let us be sure to keep these people in our thoughts.

In-home study: An in-home study for young adults is in the planning stages and looks to start up sometime in the month of March. Please see Colby Sadler and/or Ian Rice if for details if you are interested in joining that work.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship. We encourage all in this group to please meet and participate in this very important work.

Please remember: Our shut-ins and check on those not accounted for being absent in the announcements.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 2/19/14

Song Leader: Kirk Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Eddie Lawson
 Invitation: Mike Sadler
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

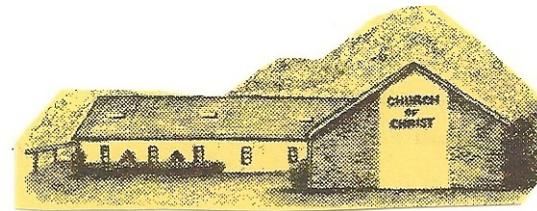
Sunday Evening: 2/23/14

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof
 Opening Prayer: Rodger Robinson
 Lord's Table: Nick Ross
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Butch Morgan
 Parking Lot: Paul Lloyd

Sunday Morning: 2/23/14

Lord's Table: Nick Ross (B)
 James VanDoorn (C)
 Serving: Ben Cunningham
 Ed Lawson
 Song Leader: Charles Rawdon
 Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Keith Marschall
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Leon Miller
 (9:50) Norm Blackburn



Lakeland Hills Leader

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

www.lakelandhillchurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405
 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

SERVICES

Sunday
 Bible Study 9:00 A.M.
 Morning Services 9:50 A.M.
 Evening Services 6:00 P.M.
 Wednesday
 Bible Study 7:30 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
 Michael Sadler
 Eric Stevens
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

“For the Remission of Sins”

Many people who profess to be Christians have differing views toward the purpose and necessity of baptism. If that doesn't make things difficult enough, some contend with differences on the mode of baptism that is acceptable to the Lord. That is to say, some teach that baptism is to be administered through sprinkling, some through pouring, whereas some teach the necessity of immersion. With regard to water baptism, it should be duly noted that the Greek word in its original form means *to immerse* an individual under water completely.

Note the following definitions of the word “baptize”...

- ζω / / *bap-tid'-zo* / From a derivative of G911; to *make whelmed* (that is, *fully wet*); used only (in the New Testament) baptize, wash. (**Strong's Hebrew and Greek Definitions**)
- / 1) to dip repeatedly, to immerse, to submerge (of vessels sunk) 2) to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water, to wash one's self, bathe 3) to overwhelm (**Thayer's Greek definitions**)

Even without looking to the original language of the Bible text, one can plainly see within from reading their Bible that the mode of baptism performed in the 1st century was that of immersion (See Acts 8:38-39). Therefore, the mode of baptism administered must be immersion if one is to be in harmony with the Bible's teaching on the matter.

Others will assert that baptism is only an outward expression of one's faith, and that a believer is said to have obtained salvation when they merely believe. The claim by many is -- all you have to do is repent, while another will teach that you just need to confess Jesus as your Lord and Master. Then there are those who teach that you simply need to "ask Jesus into your heart". (First of all, "asking Jesus into your heart" is found nowhere in scripture -- so that is simply unbiblical.) As for hearing the word spoken/read & then believing, repenting, confessing --those things ARE written of and ARE necessary conditions of salvation (Rom. 10:17, Jn. 10:31-39, Lk.13:3; 24:46-47, Mt. 10:32-33)! However, do any of those things ALONE take care of the sins that have separated us from God (Is. 59:2, Rom. 3:23; 6:23)?

As a result of hearing the first gospel sermon preached, those in attendance were told that they needed to believe in Jesus as the Christ. The apostle Peter proclaimed, "Therefore let all the house of Israel **know assuredly that God has made**

this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36 NKJV).

These people were told to believe in Jesus! The recipients of this message *obviously DID* believe, because they then asked what they were to DO next. Notice that Peter did NOT say, "*You believe? ... Good, now you're saved!*"; NOR does he respond with, "*say this prayer with me and accept Jesus into your heart*". Peter did NOT say those things, but rather he said "Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ **for the remission of sins**" (Acts 2:38 NKJV). We MUST recognize that forgiveness does not precede baptism, but rather follows as a result. In fact, receiving remission is the **purpose of baptism: baptism is for the remission of sins.**

Some will teach that the Greek word "eis" translated "for" means "because of" in Acts 2:38. In other words, they teach that the true meaning of the text speaks to the audience's need to be baptized "**because of**" the remission of sins. While the English "for" can look backward meaning "because of" a previous event, the Greek word used in Acts 2 (eis) does not!

Try the "**because of**" reasoning with the following passages and see if they make sense to you:

- Matthew 26:28: "... My **blood** ... is shed for many for (eis) the remission of sins." (NKJV)
- 2 Corinthians 7:10: "... **repentance** leading to (eis) salvation" (NKJV)

- Romans 10:10: "...**confession** is made unto (eis) salvation." (NKJV)
- Hebrews 10:39: "... **believe** to (eis) the saving of the soul." (NKJV)

Do these verses mean that Jesus shed His blood for, that we should repent, confess, or believe **because** we **already** have remission (forgiveness)?! Are any of these things non-essential, coming **after** we have been forgiven? If not, then why should we believe that is what "for" (eis) means in Acts 2:38? If the arguments used against the purpose of baptism were applied regularly, they would actually prove that faith, repentance, and confession are not essential to salvation either! Surely such arguments are unacceptable.

To see what "for" in Acts 2:38 means, simply look to the context. Bear in mind who it is that Peter was addressing... These people had been convicted of sin (Acts 2:23; 36) and had just asked what to do as a result (Verse 37). Peter then told them to "**Repent** and let every one of you be baptized..." Who needs to repent: people who have already been forgiven, or **people who need** to obtain it? Clearly, people do not need to repent unless they are in sin!

Obviously, Peter was NOT telling saved people how to show outwardly that they were already saved. He was telling lost sinners how to receive remission

(forgiveness) of their sins. Baptism is absolutely necessary in order to receive the remission of sins, because it's purpose is plainly revealed in the Bible (Acts 22:16, 1 Pet. 3:21-22). Consider also the conversion accounts where baptism is taught in Acts 8:5-12; 8:26-40; 9:18; 10:47-48; 16:15; 16:16-33; 18:8; 19:3-5; 22:16!

When God establishes a command along with a purpose for it, then we must respect that purpose as part of the action! The purpose of baptism is "for the remission of sins", but what if someone believes his sins were **already** remitted **before** baptism? Would that individual have then been baptized **for** remission? No, because their baptism would be unscriptural in purpose.

Friend, I ask you to consider your eternal destiny. With so many people teaching different doctrines around us today, put your trust in the Lord and let His written Word be your final source for authority in all matters! Have you obeyed the Lord in being baptized for the remission of your sins (Mt. 28:18-20, Mk. 16:15-15, Lk. 24:46-47, Acts 2:38)? If not, our pleas is that you do as those in the 1st century did—act immediately!

-By Ian Rice