

BASICS OF BAPTISM

David Halbrook

Study the Bible to learn about the one baptism (Ephesians 4:5):

1. **Jesus' blood washes us from sin in baptism** (Romans 6:3) We are baptized into Christ's death. His death was the occasion when He offered His body and blood for the remission of sins (Matthew 26:28). His blood washes us when we are baptized into His death.

2. **Happens after belief** (Mark 16:16) God did not reveal "infant baptism." Belief is before baptism.

3. **Means immersion** (Romans 6:4, *buried*) To be "baptized" by being sprinkled with water is like running by hopping. Running is not hopping, and baptism is not sprinkling. Baptism is a burial.

4. **In water** (Acts 8:38)

5. **For the remission of sins** (Acts 2:38; Matthew 26:28)

6. **Adds us to the church** [the saved] (1 Corinthians 12:13)

7. **Is a part of calling on the name of the Lord** (Acts 22:16) We cannot call upon the Lord for salvation by faith or words alone—it must include the one baptism.

8. **Saves us** (1 Peter 3:21) Have you been taught that baptism does not save us? Read Peter's words!

-- *Editor's Note:* As you distribute flyers this week, why not include this bulletin? Keep extra copies in your car or at your desk this week and look for ways to make them available to others—if you don't, who will?

Church of Christ—Quail Valley
4104 E. Harrison St.
Batesville, AR 72501
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelists:
David Halbrook 569-4491
Lenoard Westbrook 612-8409

The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

September 11, 2011

WWW.QVCOC.COM

FALL GOSPEL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 11-16

Burl Young Jr. will be preaching the word all week.

Sun. AM: *Lessons From The Psalms; Seek Ye First The Kingdom of God*

Sunday PM: *Hope- The Anchor of the Soul*

Monday PM: *Sacrifice*

Tuesday PM: *Atonement*

Wednesday PM: *Sanctification*

Thursday PM: *Redemption & Justification*

Friday PM: *The End of the Age*

Morning Class: Tuesday & Thursday at 11:00AM on **Spiritual Growth**

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. (Col. 4:5)

- Redeem the time this week--ask those who are outside to come and hear!

...the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love. (Eph. 4:16)

- Do you plan to do your share this week, to edify the body?

And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. (Heb. 10:24-25)

- Do you plan to consider and stir up others this week or do you plan to forsake the assembling of ourselves together?

praying always..., that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel (Eph. 6:19)

- Pray for our brother, Burl Young Jr. throughout the week.

AN OFT OVERLOOKED BEATITUDE

David Halbrook

“Beatitude” is defined as “supreme blessedness or happiness” (American Heritage Dictionary). We are most familiar with the beatitudes of Psalm 1:1 and Matthew 5:1-11, but Luke 7:23 records another beatitude, *blessed is he who is not offended because of Me*. If the truth becomes offensive to us or “rubs us the wrong way,” then Jesus has said that we cannot receive the blessings, joy, and happiness that comes from Him.

That's significant because we live in a culture in which people, sometimes even Christians, have a different idea about how joy and happiness will come. They believe that avoiding “doctrinal issues” which offend people will lead both them and us to happier lives. However, Jesus did not recommend removing that which was offensive in order to produce happiness. Instead, He warned that genuine joy is simply not available to those who are offended by His word. Thus, any joy that is felt as a result of removing the source of offense is merely a shallow, passing euphoria and is not of God.

Lest we have a skewed sense of what Jesus is saying, realize that Jesus did not say that He received joy from offending people and neither should we. Jesus' taught with the desire that the hearers would come, take His yoke, and find rest (Matt. 11:28-30). When they refused, Jesus was not sympathetic to their rebellious spirit, but He was touched by the knowledge of their pending destruction (Mt. 23:37).

Jesus was saddened but not shocked by those who took offense to His message, and He tried to help the disciples (and us) prepare for this response. In Matthew 15, after Jesus sharply rebuked the religious leaders of that time *His disciples came and said to Him, 'Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?'* Somehow they could tell that the religious leaders were not made to rejoice by the message of the Messiah. *But He answered and said, 'Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.'* (vss 12-14). What did Jesus mean by “let them alone. . .”? He clearly did not mean “don't talk to them anymore, its just a waste of time” because Jesus Himself continued to deal with these same people. Jesus was reminding the disciples that if some choose to close their eyes, no one can force them to see (Matt. 13:13-15). So, the disciples were to be less

concerned with some being offended and more aware of and concerned with the fact that these people and their followers were headed for the ditch.

Instead of dwelling on how to make the message less offensive, we should focus on the tragedy of eternal damnation that is coming to those who reject the rule of Christ. Our focus should be on how we can influence them to make them more receptive to the truth rather than thinking of how we can rework the truth to make it more palatable. When men turn from their rebellious attitude toward God's word (which is the reason they are offended), they then make themselves available to receive the greatest and most enduring joys of life. Truly “blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

How are you spending your time?

(*The Observer*, Lafayette Heights church of Christ, June 7, 2009)

- * **It takes 70 hours, 40 minutes to read the Bible at pulpit rate.**
 - * **It takes 52 hours, 20minutes to read the Old Testament.**
 - * **It takes 18 hours, 20 minutes to read the New Testament.**
 - * **It takes 4 hours, 28 minutes to read the longest section in the Old Testament, Psalms.**
 - * **It takes 2 hours, 43 minutes to read the longest book in the New Testament, Luke.**
 - * **It takes 2 months and 10 days to read the entire Bible at the rate of 1 hour a day.**
 - * **It takes 1 year to read the Bible 5 times and be one-third of the way through the 6th time.**
- What better way to spend your time?**

“Our constitution was made only for a moral and religious people...so great is my veneration of the Bible that the earlier my children begin to read, the more confident will be my hope that they will prove useful citizens in their country and respectful members of society.” **John Adams**

“Believe me, sir, never a night goes by, be I ever so tired, but I read the Word of God before I go to bed.” **Douglas MacArthur**