

## Light and Life

## Dunked And Done!

“Make disciples of all nations, baptizing them... teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Mt. 28:19-20).

Baptism is just the beginning of discipleship! Unfortunately, it sometimes happens that people come up out of the water thinking they have their ticket punched. If this is their understanding of baptism, they don't understand baptism! They may have understood that in baptism we die to sin (Rm. 6:3; Col. 2:11), but did they understand that we must also be raised with Him to walk in a new way (Rm. 6:4-5; Col. 2:12)?

When we were “buried with Christ” (Col. 2:12), we “died with Christ to the basic principles of the world” (v. 20). Our former way of life, or “old man” has been “crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin” (Rm. 6:6). We “put off the old man with his deeds”, which include “fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry... anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language” and lying (Col. 3:5, 8-9).

Baptism is not just a death; it is also the beginning of a new life! “If we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection” (Rm. 6:5). If we are “raised with Christ”, we will “seek those things which are above, where Christ is” (Col. 3:1)! We “put on a new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him” (v. 10)! Just as we put off sin, we “put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another” – and above all, we put on love (vss 12-14)!

This new life is one we must continue to grow in as we follow God's word (I Pe. 2:1-3; II Pe. 1:5-9). Disciples are not ‘dunked & done’!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Withdrawing Fellowship

“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when you are gathered together, along with my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Co 5:4-5).

There is a man in the Corinthian church who is actively participating in sexual immorality with his father's wife. We know no more detail, and speculation is profitless. What is clear is that he is being accepted by the brethren despite his sin, even to the point of some strange pride in their toleration (v.2). Paul's directive is clear – he is to be “taken away from among you” (v.2), “purge out the old leaven” (v.7), “...not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, covetous... not even to eat with such a person” (v.11), and “put away from yourselves the evil person” (v.13). Paul is advising the removal of fellowship (“deliver... to Satan”) with the intent that such drastic action will prompt repentance.

Taken as a whole, the instruction is easily understood. Local churches are not to maintain brotherly relations with Christians who are living impenitent, sinful lives. But enacting this instruction is demanding. We are reluctant to ‘pass judgment’ on others, even when the scriptures are clear. The culture of tolerance around us vilifies anyone who dares criticize the lifestyle choices of another human being. Moreover, churches are sometimes not close enough to make ostracism fruitful. Fellowship must be regularly practiced for withdrawal to become effective.

But hard stuff isn't to be dismissed just because it's hard. This is God's directive. When properly practiced, it saves souls. May we have the courage and fortitude to do His will – in His ways.

- Russ Bowman (edited for space)

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Morning Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

**“Wine is a mocker,  
and strong drink a  
brawler; whoever  
is led astray by it is  
not wise.” - Pr 20:1**

## Downtown Church of Christ

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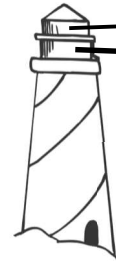
Put down the phone  
and be with the  
people you are with.

## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

TJ Burleson  
Scott Hale  
Jason Hill  
Chris Johnson  
Brock McKeel  
Randy Potter  
Tim Roberts  
Randy Shell



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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## When the Extraordinary was Ordinary

The Bible affirms that miracles were a very real occurrence, which should not surprise anyone who believes Genesis 1:1. And as we read further in the Biblical text, it might seem as though miracles were an everyday occurrence – as common as the sun coming up in the morning.

But throughout most of Bible history, such was **not** the case. Miracles were reserved for special occasions, like the birth of a boy to a 90 year old woman and her 100 year old husband (Ge 21), or the parting of the Red Sea (Ex 14), or the forty years of manna from heaven (Ex 16). They were rare events in time – truly EXTRAordinary!

Until the first century.

Jesus performed miracles regularly (Mt 4:23-25) – and His apostles did the same (Ac 5:12-16). It was a time when the extraordinary truly became ordinary.

The **purpose** of the miracles in the New Testament was to point people to the gospel **message** – the message of salvation (Jn 20:30-31, He 2:1-4) – and to confirm that the message was truly from God. Such events do not occur today. Those who claim they do need only perform such signs to make their case. But they cannot because – they were **extraordinary!**

- WKing

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.  
*Sick:* KFletcher, Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, KHeilighenthal  
*Shut-ins:* Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Susan Wiese, Virgil Carter, ADosier  
*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**CONGRATULATIONS!** – Congratulations to Stephen and Allison (and the rest of the family) at the birth of their daughter, Charlotte Grace!

**REJOICE!** – Rejoice with Ashlin Guynn (friend of Caleb) and with Kyleigh Robles (friend of Lindsey) who were recently baptized into Christ!