



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 3, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
October 10

Weekly Bible Studies
Tuesdays on Zoom

Times of Service
Sunday

Bible study: 9:45 AM
Worship: 10:45 AM; 6 PM

Wednesday

Bible study: 7:30 PM
(Immediately followed by a
short worship service)

First Friday of Month
Singing
September 3, 7:30

Address and Contact

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Christ
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Q AND R ON BAPTISM (1)

The remainder of the series on baptism will be moved to the bulletin and come in the form of questions I have received on the topic over the years. I pray that you find the responses both biblical and helpful.

Question: “The reference to baptism in many cases of conversion in the book of Acts is often set forth as proof of its necessity. However, isn’t it fair to point out that baptism is *not* referenced in just as many cases? How do you reconcile this?”

Response: It is both fair and true. Baptism is referenced in a number of conversions in Acts. See 2:38, 40-41, 47; 8:26-39; 9:1-19...22:16; 10:44-48; 16:11-15, 25-34; and 18:1-8. It is also *not* referenced in a number of conversions in Acts. See 4:4; 9:25, 35, 42; 11:21-24; 13:48; 14:1, 21; 17:4, 12, 34; 19:17-18; and 28:24. While some may question whether *all* of the examples on this second list are actual conversions, most of them obviously are. What are we supposed to do with this?

This is really a question of how we read and interpret what Scripture teaches on any given subject, in this case becoming a Christian and the role of baptism in that process. However, before we get to that, I offer this for your consideration. When Peter answered the question, “Brothers, what shall we do?”, his response was that they repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. (2:37-38) However, in verse 41 only baptism is present. In 4:4 belief is mentioned while both repentance and baptism are absent. In 10:44-48 baptism is present without a word said about repentance. In 11:21-24 we find belief without anything said about either repentance or baptism. We find this same pattern throughout the entirety of Acts.

Members Needing Our Prayers

Rick Small, Ralph Fox, Benny Poynter, The Litmer family, Janet Brundige, Joyce Bolton and family, Karen Spivey, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayers

Randy Cates, Larry McTeer, Charlene Michael, Ann Little, Mary Jean Snyder, Mark Nickles, Dale Lyons, Adam Fusco, Rachel and Sarah White, Duane Harrod, Grace Meyer, Meredith Nicholson, Alice and Lonnie Anderson, Glen Perkins, Ethan Shelton, Terry Daniels, Harvey Baker, Leroy Weatherholt, Robert Brundige, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Debbie Lanphear, Veronica Bowman

To Our Guests

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We seem to have two options available to us. The first option is to conclude that Acts is showing us different, even contradictory, ways to reach the same conclusion. Sometimes Peter taught the need for belief, repentance, and baptism while others times he taught only the need for one or two of them. The same would be true of Paul. Repentance is only required of that person or group, while those over there need only concern themselves with baptism. Others need neither, but only belief. This is a confusing, muddled, and incoherent message. I don't believe it to be a valid option.

The second option is that they were included whenever the gospel was presented and the text need not mention each specifically at every conversion. To preach Jesus Christ *was* to preach belief, repentance, baptism and more. (Acts 8:26-39) To mention one suffices for all. This option does not require a person to pit one text against another. It seeks to take everything taught on the subject, rather than bits and pieces. This is how good Bible study is done. Let us strive to ensure this is how we approach God's Word. Adam Litmer

Elders	Deacons	Evangelist
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
John Thompson	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

