



THE MESSENGER

OCTOBER 31, 2021

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting
TBD

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

University Heights Church of
Christ
445 Columbia Ave., Lexington,
KY 40508
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www.uheightschurch.com

Q AND R ON BAPTISM (5)

Question: “1 Peter 3:21 connects baptism, salvation, and a good conscience. How does a good conscience connect to the previous two?”

Response: The verse reads as follows: “*Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*” It can seem a bit odd that of all the things Peter could have mentioned about baptism and its saving nature he chose to mention it as an act that appeals to God for a good conscience. How does baptism make this appeal and why does Peter connect it specifically to salvation?

While the conscience must never be used as the creator and determiner of truth and righteousness (this belongs to God alone), the importance of a good conscience cannot be overstated. Consider some comments from Paul and Peter on the topic.

The aim of our charge is love that issues from a pure heart and a good conscience and sincere faith. (1 Timothy 1:5).....This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith. (1 Timothy 1:18-19).....After speaking of preparation to defend the hope within us, Peter says, “having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.” (1 Peter 3:15-16) We could add more to this list but these suffice.

Members Needing Our Prayers

Rick Small, Chris Stewart, Ralph Fox, Benny Poynter, 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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When one comes to believe they are alienated from God as the result of their sins it is not possible to maintain a good conscience while in that state. As they consider that Jesus is the Christ, that he died on the cross for their sins, that he rose from the grave, and that his atoning sacrifice makes reconciliation with God possible, they realize that it is possible for their conscience to justifiably be cleansed. This is the incredible news.

But why is baptism the place in which this appeal for a good conscience takes place? Because baptism is where one puts on Christ (Galatians 3:27), has their sins washed clean from their souls (Acts 22:16), receives the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), escapes enslavement to the adversary to enter the family of God (Romans 6; Ephesians 1), and so much more. It is only because of these things that a sinner can ever *legitimately* have and maintain a good conscience.

“Baptism now saves you” and it is possible to stand before God with a good conscience. What wonderful news! AL

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	

