



# THE MESSENGER

## JUNE 18, 2023

### NEWS AND NOTES

#### Congregational Meeting

#### Our Next Gospel Meeting

TBD

#### Weekly Bible Studies

Thursday at 1 on Zoom

Friday at 1 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

February 3, 7:30

#### Address and Contact

University Heights Church of Christ

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### A RESPONSE (1)

Frank Turek is a speaker, author, and host of the “I Don’t Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist” podcast. He argues for the existence of God, the historic reality of Jesus, the trustworthiness of the bible, and equipping believers for handling an increasingly hostile culture. He is very good in these areas.

I was surprised on Wednesday to see his latest podcast was called, “Seven reasons why baptism is NOT required for salvation.” Doctor Turek is a careful and effective thinker so I listened to the podcast imagining that I might hear something well-reasoned and compelling. Instead, he offered the same old arguments that are easily answered by letting the text speak for itself. Because his arguments are so common, I think it would be helpful to consider and respond to each as we seek to equip ourselves to understand God’s Word and explain it to others.

His first argument comes from 1 Corinthians 1. Verses 12-17 say, “*What I mean is that each one of you says, “I follow Paul,” or “I follow Apollos,” or “I follow Cephas,” or “I follow Christ.” Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one may say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with words of eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.*”

His argument (hear it for yourself wherever you listen to podcasts) is that Paul “bifurcates” the gospel from baptism. It has so little to do with salvation that Paul didn’t even know who he had baptized while in Corinth. I offer a few thoughts.

First, carefully consider what Paul says in the first part of verse 17. The act of preaching the gospel and the act of baptizing is not the same. Paul was sent to preach while anyone could do

## Members Needing Our Prayers

John Thompson, Mary and Riley Mae Weatherholt, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

## Others Needing Prayer

Cassy Neal, Glenda Miller, Michael Edwards, Alyse Nash, Mary Bishop, Helen Thomas, Patty Hill, Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Fay Thomas, Glen Perkins, Edra Bernard, Valari Jones-Butler (Valari is Gina Seabolt's former co-worker. Her daughter is undergoing chemo for breast cancer. Her 21 year old nephew was killed in a shooting), Charlie Hoy, Marc Nations, Janice Parsons, Veronica Bowman, Charles Bishop, Allison Walker, Mark Nickles, Dwayne Harrod, William Roberts, Paul and Marrian Lyda, Dana and her children, Shane (a relative of Cindi), Ron Harmon, Patty Hill

## To Our Guests

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the baptizing. This is how Jesus operated with his disciples (John 4:2) To conclude from this that baptism is therefore not part of the gospel is unwarranted. If baptism is about joining Jesus in his death, burial, and resurrection, (it is, Romans 6) facts which this same author declared to be of "first importance," (1 Corinthians 15:1-8) how could anyone take Paul's words in 1:17 to mean that baptism has no place in the gospel? How did the eunuch know about baptism after Philip's preaching in Acts 8? Baptism is *everywhere* in Acts. It's hard to come up with a good reason why that would be if it is not part of the gospel.

Why *did* Paul refrain from baptizing in Corinth? If it were because baptism had no place in the gospel than Paul violated his commission in baptizing *anyone*. But that's not it. Paul shows us why in the text itself. Many of the Corinthians were declaring their allegiance to the prominent preacher who baptized them. (12, 14) All should have been declaring, "I follow Christ" but many were putting ordinary men in that spot. This unhealthy and inappropriate allegiance *may* have been why Apollos refused to return to Corinth when Paul pressed him. (16:12)

Paul tells us he baptized few because he was sent to preach the gospel, (a different act than baptizing, and one that could be done by anyone) and because the Corinthian Christians were declaring allegiance to the one who baptized them rather than to Jesus. This is simply what the text says. Adam Litmer

<b>Elders</b>	<b>Deacons</b>	<b>Evangelist</b>
Troy Antle	Richard Brundige	Adam Litmer
David Collins	Adam Daniels	
	Marcus Lake	
	Adam Litmer	
	Frank Patton	
	Jamie Powell	
	Pat Seabolt	
	Matt Thompson	
	James Weatherholt	

