



THE MESSENGER

JUNE 25, 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

July

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

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“IN ORDER TO” OR “BECAUSE OF”?

In this article we will continue to consider and respond to one of Frank Turek’s recent podcasts entitled, “7 Reasons Why Baptism is NOT Required for Salvation.” I encourage you to listen to the podcast yourself on whatever platform you prefer. Honesty requires that one be permitted to speak for themselves. By listening to him offer his reasons you can ensure that I am not putting words in his mouth or guilty of a “straw man” fallacy.

Mr. Turek takes a few moments to talk about Acts 2:38. In this verse Peter responds to the question of verse 37. “*Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”* Peter’s answer in verse 38 reads as follows: “*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” Focusing on the word “for” (the Greek preposition *eis*), Mr. Turek mentions that the word can mean, “because of” rather than “in order to receive.” To substantiate this, he offers the example of Matthew 3:11. In this verse John says, “*I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, who sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*” He points out that John was not saying he baptized “in order to get repentance, but because they had repented.” Fair enough, yet John’s baptism is not the baptism of Acts 2:38 and the two verses do not say the same thing.

Even so, let’s take Mr. Turek’s reasoning into Acts 2:38 and see what we get. You cannot simply ignore the fact that “repent” comes before baptism in the verse and that both are clearly pointing to the same end. If baptism is enjoined upon them because they had already received the forgiveness of their sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit, then repentance is enjoined for the same reason. This would mean Peter is telling them to repent of their sins because their sins were already forgiven. That’s

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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nonsensical. And if we must appeal to another passage containing the word *eis* to help us understand Acts 2:38, why not appeal to one that uses the *exact wording* of Acts 2:38? In Matthew 26:27-28, as Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper, we read, "And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" Did Jesus shed his blood because sins were already forgiven or in order that sins could be forgiven? The answer is obvious and *that's* how "for" is used in Acts 2:38.

Mr. Turek uses a rather odd example next. He says that you don't take two aspirin in order to receive a headache but because you've already got one. True. However, his example hurts his argument far more than it helps it. When you have a headache, you take aspirin to alleviate the pain, *not because the pain has already been alleviated*. In the same way, people repent of their sin and are baptized in order to receive forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit, not because they have already received them.

Mr. Turek is an intelligent man and a good thinker. That his arguments in this area are so weak and indefensible is a reminder that there is no such thing as good reasoning for contradicting what the Bible teaches. Indeed, *good* reasoning never leads to such efforts in the first place. Adam Litmer

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

