



# THE MESSENGER

## JULY 2, 2023

### NEWS AND NOTES

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#### **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**

University Heights Church of  
Christ

445 Columbia Ave., Lexington,  
KY 40508

(859) 255-6257

[www.uheightschurch.com](http://www.uheightschurch.com)

### DESCRIPTIVE OR PRESCRIPTIVE?

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In this article we will continue to respond to Frank Turek's recent podcast entitled "Seven Reasons Why Baptism is NOT Required for Salvation." As I've mentioned in each article, you can listen to this episode on whatever platform you prefer for podcasts. It's important to be fair to someone you're responding to, especially if you're disagreeing with them. The best way to do this is to let them speak for themselves without assigning arguments to them.

One of Mr. Turek's arguments centers around the way the book of Acts is interpreted. He says that many things in the book are "described rather than prescribed." This means that sometimes Luke was simply telling us what the early Christians were doing without telling us that we need to do the same. This principle is sound. For instance, we are informed that early disciples met in an upper room. (Acts 1:12-14) Another time the apostle Paul spoke to the brethren until midnight. (Acts 20:7) In such passages the Spirit is not prescribing upper rooms upon Christians or sermons into the wee hours of the morning. Mr. Turek is absolutely correct in saying that Acts sometimes describes rather than prescribes.

I do, however, have a problem with Mr. Turek seeking to put baptism in that category. When something is merely descriptive, it is incidental. By that I mean it is done, but in subjection to the more important element under consideration. For instance, the important point was that the disciples were meeting together. That it was in an upper room is incidental, or subordinate, to the meeting. They would still be meeting whether there was an upper room or not.

## 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

Barbara Ivey, 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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That is not the case with baptism. Acts 2:38 and 22:16 show the place of baptism in the forgiveness of sins. Mr. Turek needs to explain how and why baptism is descriptive rather than prescriptive in these passages. He needs to show how *removing* baptism from the above passages still brings about the result they tie directly *to* baptism. Asserting it proves nothing. If he cannot substantiate his assertion as it relates to baptism than he needs to explain by what authority he changes what the bible teaches about baptism.

I also find it interesting that baptism is the only element of reaching salvation treated in this way. One would think it is only mentioned a time or two during conversions found in Acts rather than in *all of them*. Neither repentance or confession, both of which Mr. Turek believes are necessary for salvation, are found nearly as often as baptism in Acts. So where is the podcast offering a number of reasons for why *they* are not required for salvation? Of course, they, along with baptism, are required for salvation.

Yes, some things are descriptive rather than prescriptive. Yet we must have good reason for seeing them that way. Baptism, in no way, falls into that category. As long as sin needs cleansing, baptism will be the God given avenue by which it comes. 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	
	James Weatherholt	

