



THE MESSENGER

JULY 16 , 2023

NEWS AND NOTES

Congregational Meeting

Today

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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www.uheightschurch.com

TWO MORE ARGUMENTS

In this article we will continue considering Frank Turek's recent podcast, "7 Reasons Why Baptism is NOT Required for Salvation" Listen to the podcast yourself to hear his reasoning from his own mouth.

Mr. Turek appeals to John's stated purpose for writing his gospel. In 20:30-31, John says, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." Mr. Turek points out that John says belief leads to life without mentioning baptism. In fact, he claims John never mentions baptism in his gospel. He assures us that Jesus' words to Nicodemus, "Unless one is born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (3:5) is "murky" and we cannot be certain what being born of water means in that passage. John's focus, says Mr. Turek, is on belief and that he does not *clearly* mention baptism shows that it is not required for salvation.

Interestingly, John 3:5 is usually "murky" only to those who argue against what the Bible clearly teaches about baptism. Yet we need not pursue that any further in considering Mr. Turek's reasoning. Is this how Bible study is done? Do we find a passage, or even a book, that doesn't clearly mention a topic we wish to avoid and then pretend that passage or book says *everything* the Bible has to say on the topic? How would Mr. Turek respond to the person who claims belief is not required for salvation because 1 Peter 3:21 says "baptism now saves you" without mentioning belief? He would, and *should*, have a problem with that but

Members Needing Our Prayers

The Waller family, John Thompson, Joyce Bolton, Rick Small, Benny Poynter, Janet Brundige, Rhonda Boyd, Cindy Bradbury, Paul Atkisson

Others Needing Prayer

Glenda Miller, Michael Edwards, Alyse Nash, Mary Bishop, Helen Thomas, Patty Hill, Eli Kempton, Sophie Brown, Fay Thomas, 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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he's inconsistent in his reasoning if he does. After all, what's good for goose is good for gander, right? If only Mr. Turek and those like him would view the entire picture rather than closing one eye to avoid having to see it all.

Mr. Turek next appeals to Mark 16:16. In this passage, Jesus says, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." He sees great significance in Jesus saying, in the second part of the verse, that one is condemned by not believing without mentioning baptism. His conclusion is that baptism is not required for salvation. It seems to have escaped him that in making this claim he is contradicting Jesus in the first part of the same verse.

Let this be a lesson about the danger of "proof texting." This is done when one finds a verse, or part of a verse, removes it from its context, and forces it into serving an idea or interpretation that it *does not serve*.

A simple question should resolve the issue here. Do we want to be saved or do we want to be lost? If saved, "believe and be baptized." If lost, simply refuse to "believe." After all, baptism has no meaning to the unbeliever.

Why not just do everything the Bible says on this topic without trying to get around it? 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	

