

Trends

Statistics about gays in the U.S.: 1) Lesbians are two times more likely to attempt suicide than straight women, 2) Gay and lesbian youth account for ~30% of all "completed" suicides, 3) Gay teens attempt suicide at 3 times the rate of straight teens, 4) Gay men are 6 times more likely to attempt suicide than straight men, 5) HIV infection rate among gay men is 44 times higher than straight men, and 6) Syphilis infection rate among gay men 46 times higher than straight men.

via Trevor Project

Romans 1:26-27: "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. 27 Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due."

Sentence Sermons

"No culture that has ever embraced homosexuality has survived."

~Steve Largent

News & Notes

Please pray for those mentioned in the announcements after services and others listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of the church building.

Pray for all the members at Westside! Please pray for Susan Ferrell and her family as she continues to recover from brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for her husband Shawn and their three boys: Samuel, Micah, and Eli.

Continue prayers for Jennifer Shorter (Garner) a member at Knightsville who is recovering well from her brain tumor surgery. Also, please pray for Elias Dispennett (age 8), son of Rob Dispennett, Knightsville's preacher, w2ho has Type 1 diabetes.

Please pray for my daughter Dawne. She had successful jaw surgery for her bilateral cleft palate on 7/13. She has had about a dozen surgeries for this condition over the years. Her eight hour surgery went well. Dawne continues to recover and had a good evaluation from the doctor on 8/4. Sherry and I sincerely appreciate continued prayers on her behalf.

Pray for the college students as they are now on summer break. Jonathan will be attending IUPUI law school this fall and Rachel plans to return to IU.

Please keep sister Wilma in your prayers! She gives all of us so much encouragement! God bless her and Virginia! Remember both of them in your prayers.

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Please direct questions and comments to the editor.

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"Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."

John 6:68

"...even baptism doth also now save us..."

Craig Thomas

We have been examining in detail what God requires of us to be saved: 1) **Hear Christ** (Heb. 1:1-2); 2) **Believe in Christ** (Jn. 20:31); 3) **Repent** (Acts 17:30); 4) **Confess Christ** (Rom. 10:10); 5) **Be Baptized** (Mark 16:16); and, 6) **Live Faithfully** (Col. 1:22-23). Today we will consider baptism. Let's consider some important things about baptism.

1) **Baptism Puts One Into Christ.** In Romans 6:3 and Galatians 3:27 we learn that we are "baptized into Christ." The Bible also teaches that salvation is "in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:10). Thus, Peter said in 1 Pet. 3:21, "The like figure whereunto even **baptism doth also now save us...**" So, dear reader, since salvation is in Christ and we are baptized into Christ have you been baptized? If not, you are not saved!

2) **Baptism Puts One Into the Church.** We are often told that one can be saved without being baptized at all. However, baptism places an individual in the "one body" (1 Cor. 12:13) which is the church (Col. 1:24) purchased with Jesus' blood (Acts 20:28). Jesus is the savior of the body (Eph. 5:23) and the only way to get into the "one body" is to be baptized into it. Man is reconciled to God in the body of Christ (Col. 1:20-22). Thus, one can no more be saved without baptism than one can be reconciled to God without being in Christ's body or church.

3) **Baptism Is A Must.** In Acts 9:6 the Lord told Saul to "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou **must** do." So we know that whatever he was told to do was a must. In Acts 22:16 we learn that one thing he was told was to "arise, and be baptized." Something that is a "must" is not optional and baptism is a "must." Thus, it is not optional it is required by God to obtain salvation!

4) **Baptism Is A Command Of Christ.** This is recorded in both Matthew 28:19-20 and Mark 16:15-16. In Ephesians 4:5 this is referred to as the "one baptism" and as a result it is the only baptism of the Bible that is in force today.

Have you been baptized “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”? (Matt. 28:19) If not, you do not have “the remission of [your] sins” (Acts 2:38), you have not washed “away your sins” (Acts 22:16), you remain outside the body of Christ in which sinful men are reconciled to God (1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:20-22). So, “why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16) If we can be of any assistance in helping you obey God’s simple command, give us a call.

Answering Some Objections To Bible Baptism

Craig Thomas

1) **Jesus Didn’t Say, “He that is not baptized shall be damned.”** Mark 16:16 teaches that it takes two things to be saved; belief and baptism. However, it only takes one thing to be lost; just don’t believe! Thus, John said, “He that believeth on him is not condemned, but **he that believeth not is condemned already.**” (Jn. 3:18)

2) **The Word “for” in Acts 2:38 Means “because of.”** The same Greek word “eis” which is translated “for” in Acts 2:38 is the same word used in Matthew 26:28 where Jesus said, “For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many **for** the remission of sins.” Jesus’ blood was shed **for**, “to the intent that” sins be remitted, not **for**, “because” sins had already been remitted. Likewise, baptism is **for** (“to the intent that”) remission of sins, not “because of” remission of sins.

3) **Water Can’t Wash Away Sins, Only Jesus’ Blood.** This is correct! Nowhere does the New Testament teach that water, in and of itself, can save people. However, the only way for a person to contact the blood of Jesus is by obeying the command to be baptized (Jn. 19:32-34; Rom. 6:3-4; cf. 1 Pet. 3:21).

4) **We Are Saved By Faith And Not Works.** It’s true there are some works that cannot save (Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5; 1 Jn. 3:8). However, there are works “which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:10). Jesus described faith as a work of God (Jn. 6:28-29). These are the type of works that save and baptism is included among these “God ordained” works (Jn. 3:3,5; Titus 3:5; Heb. 5:9; 10:22). The only time “faith only” appears in the Bible it is condemned! (see Jas. 2:14-26, esp. v. 24)

5) **“The Thief Was Saved Without Being Baptized!”** First of all, if one makes this argument, they must prove the thief was not baptized. This cannot be done (Matt. 3:1-6). We must realize that Christ was alive when He told the thief, “This day shalt thou be with me in paradise.” Therefore, the thief lived and died under the law of Moses. The will of Christ did not come into effect until after Jesus died (Heb. 9:16-17). Fifty three days after Christ died the gospel was preached and along with it baptism (Acts 2:38). You can’t hold a man responsible to a law that came into effect 53 days after his death! Who wants to be saved like a thief anyway? Instead of trying to think up ways to get around it, won’t

you join me and simply submit to Jesus’ command to be baptized (Mk. 16:15:16)? Baptism washed away Saul’s sins...don’t you want your sins washed away too? If so, then “arise and be baptized...calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

Been Away? Still Need to Give

Larry Hafley

I wish I knew a delicate way to say what I am about to say. Better still, I wish I could tell you that the elders told me to write this. They did not. (Which is one thing I like about our elders. If they have anything to say, they do not need me or Kevin to say it for them.)

But before I get into it, I am not trying to be nosy. I am not seeking to pry into your private business. At any rate, here goes: We all know what our duty is regarding our Lord’s day contribution. We are to give cheerfully and not out of a sense of necessity or grudgingly (2 Cor. 9:7). We are to give as we have purposed and prospered, according to our ability (Acts 11:29; 1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 8:12).

At times, we are away from home. Our duty to give, to contribute to the work of the Lord, remains. Most of us put in our “store” before we leave or make it up when we return. That is commendable. How about you? When you are away, do you neglect to give? The needs of this local church and the work that is planned and overseen by the elders continues. Expenses do not cease when one of us is away. Our duty before God to give to His work. The cost of doing that work does not end when we leave town.

Perhaps you have just never thought of it before, and have carelessly neglected to “lay by in store” as the Bible teaches. Now, with this reminder, we can all do better in this regard, and the Lord’s work will be done in a more orderly and efficient fashion (1 Cor. 14:40).

“But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”

1 John 3:17