

Trends

According to statistics from Wycliffe International, Gideons International, and the International Bible Society, the number of new Bibles that are sold, given away, or otherwise distributed in the United States is about 168,000 per day.

- via AmazingBibleTimeline.com

Psalm 119:105: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

Sentence Sermons

"Bread is a second cause; the LORD Himself is the first source of our sustenance. He can work without the second cause as well as with it; and we must not tie Him down to one mode of operation. Let us not be too eager after the visible, but let us look to the invisible God."

—Charles H. Spurgeon

Matthew 4:4: "But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

News & Notes

Please pray for Zachary Wallace. He is not faithfully attending services as he should (Heb. 10:24-25). "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (Jas. 5:16)

Please keep sister Wilma Cardwell in your prayers. Her birthday is March 24th. She's an encouragement to all!

Pray for all our members who do not attend regularly. Try to encourage them!

Pray for the African appeal for funds to buy Bibles, songbooks and support faithful preachers' travel expense. Donate if you're able! 1 Jn. 3:17

Please pray for my upcoming trip to the Philippines (April 7-May 5). I will have the honor and privilege of accompanying and assisting brother Ron Halbrook. Lord willing, we will be teaching two preacher training schools, plus preaching at several congregations. Pray for the furtherance of the gospel!

Pray that Westside might be an influence for good in this community.

Pray for the all of our students: elementary, secondary and college. Our young people face many trials and temptations at school.

There are many needy saints, including preachers! Can you help?!

Anyone need prayers? Let us know so we can announce it and post it.

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Words of Life

Westside
church of Christ

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

John 6:68



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"...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). 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.

“And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.’”

—Mark 16:15-16

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 con-

tact the blood of Jesus is by obeying the command to be baptized (Jn. 19:32-34; 1 Pet. 3:21). Paul said whoever is *“baptized into Christ Jesus”* is *“baptized into His death”* (Rom. 6:3). Where did Jesus shed His blood? In His death! Enough said?!

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, 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 He 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)

Those Who “Shall Never Die”

Larry Hafley

In John 11:25, 26, Jesus said, *“I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”*

Who is it that “shall never die”? *“Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.”* What does it mean to “live and believe in Christ”?

(1) Some say it means to be a good, moral person. While that is true, it is not sufficient (Matt. 28:20). That is not all that is included in living and believing in Christ. (2) Others say it means to trust Christ as our personal Savior. Again, that is true, but it is not complete (Heb. 5:8, 9). (3) Many believe that to live and believe in Christ means it is not necessary to “obey commandments,” or “keep a lot of rules and regulations.” Certainly, we are not to follow the commandments of men. However, there are commands to be obeyed, for only those who *“do the will of my Father,”* Jesus said, *“shall enter into the kingdom of heaven”* (Matt. 7:21). The Spirit says, *“Blessed are they who do his commandments, that they might have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city”* (Rev. 22:14). Jesus is the author of eternal salvation *“unto all them that obey him”* (Heb. 5:9).

Let us define what it means to “live and believe in Christ” by comparing John 8:51 with John 11:26:

Live, Believe In Christ--Result? “Shall Never Die.”

Man Keeps Jesus’ Saying--Result? “Shall Never See Death.”

Observe, please, that “shall never die” is equivalent to “shall never see death.” They mean the same thing. Likewise, he *“that liveth and believeth in me”* is the same as he that *“keepeth my saying.”* So, to live and believe in Christ is to keep, or obey, the word of Christ. If one does not *“observe all things...commanded”* by Christ, he is not living and believing in him (Matt. 28:20; Jn. 8:51; 11:26)!

Do you live and believe in Christ, obeying his commandments? If not, you shall die; that is, you will suffer eternal separation from God in hell (Matt. 25:41, 46; Rev. 21:8). However, if you live and believe in Christ, you *“shall never die.”* In other words, you will receive eternal life in heaven (Matt. 25:46; 1 Pet. 1:3-5). Either you *“shall never die,”* or you shall forever die.

Awesome contemplation, is it not? Therefore, *“let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”* (Heb. 12:28).