

This email is the *eighth in a series of articles* I've titled "GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW". Each future article builds upon previous articles, so if you need to review an earlier article, they are available online at [www.warnerschapelchurchofchrist.org](http://www.warnerschapelchurchofchrist.org) . It is my hope that these articles will be beneficial to everyone who receives them. Please share them with your friends and family members and feel free to email any questions or comments to me [David Moore] at [dmoore5@triad.rr.com](mailto:dmoore5@triad.rr.com) .

## **GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW!**

God wants you to know that you must be baptized for the remission of sins in order to have forgiveness of sin and eternal life. In Mark 16:16 Jesus said: "**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.**" In light of what Jesus said, we will consider an example of people who manifested their love toward Jesus by being baptized for the remission of sins as a part of their obedience to the gospel of Christ.

In Acts 2:38 (KJV), "Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins." Since there is a great deal of controversy over the meaning of the word "for" in the phrase "for the remission of sins", we will determine the meaning of this word in the original Greek text of the New Testament. According to the Greek-English Lexicon by Berry and Strong's Greek-English Dictionary, the Greek word εἰς (translated "for") can be defined: to, unto (implies motion to or towards), for (intent or purpose). Thus "baptism for the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38 KJV) indicates that baptism moves one toward the remission of sins, or is for the purpose of obtaining the remission of sins.

In Matthew 26:28 (KJV) Jesus states: "**For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**" You will notice that the English word "for" is used three times in verse 28. What is not readily obvious is that Jesus used a different Greek word in the original language of the New Testament each time the word "for" is used in the English translation. When Jesus said: "**For this is my blood of the New Testament**", he used the Greek word γάρ, which can be defined: because or therefore. And when Jesus said: "**which is shed for many**", he used the Greek word περὶ, which can be defined: with respect to, or on behalf of. But when Jesus said: "**for the remission of sins**" he used the Greek word εἰς, which can be defined: to, unto (implies motion to or toward), for (intent or purpose). No where in New Testament Greek is the word εἰς defined: because of or on behalf of. In Acts 2:38, if Peter by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit had stated that baptism was γάρ (because of) or περὶ (on behalf of) the forgiveness of sins, then it could have meant that forgiveness occurred before baptism. However, the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to state that baptism was εἰς (moving to or toward) the remission of sins. Thus the purpose of baptism is to obtain the remission (forgiveness) of sins.

Based upon the above scriptures, baptism (along with belief in Jesus, repentance, and confessing Jesus as the Son of God) is prerequisite to forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. In the next article we will continue our study of baptism for remission of sins.

"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath." (James 1:19 KJV)