

This email is the *ninth 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. 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.

GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW!

God wants you to know what the New Testament teaches about baptism. There are seven examples found in the book of Acts (chapters 2, 8, 9, 10, & 16) where people's sins were forgiven when they manifested their love toward Jesus by obeying the gospel of Christ. In all seven examples (without exception) the text states that the people were "baptized". Additional verses that pertain to baptism are quoted below:

- "Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:47-48 KJV).
- "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27 KJV).
- "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4 KJV).
- "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Col. 2:12 KJV).
- "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21 KJV).
- "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16 KJV).

If you accept the above scriptures as truth, then you should believe the following truisms:

- Baptism "in the name of the Lord" (by his authority) was "commanded".
- When your baptism is in harmony with the scriptures (scriptural), you become "children of God by faith" when you "put on Christ" or are "baptized into Christ".
- When your baptism is scriptural, it is a "baptism into death" (where his blood was shed), and you are raised to "walk in newness of life" (the Christian life).

- When your baptism is scriptural, you are “buried with him” (immersed in water).
- Scriptural baptism (“the answer of a good conscience”) “doth also now save us”.
- Baptism “in the name of the Lord” (by his authority) is to “wash away thy sins”.

Based upon the above scriptures and the ones in previous lessons, baptism (along with belief in Jesus, repentance, and confessing Jesus as the Son of God) is prerequisite to forgiveness of sin and eternal salvation. Why do people not believe these truisms?

The next article will consider why people reject the truth of God’s word and the consequences of doing so.

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