



Warners Chapel Church of Christ

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Clemmons, North Carolina 27012
Telephone 336-766-6078

Preacher: **Frank Shepard**

"The churches of Christ salute you" Rom. 16:16

A CORDIAL WELCOME AWAITS YOU

January 22, 2017

GEISLER'S ATTACK ON BAPTISM

Dr. Norman Geisler is noted as a elite scholar within the denominational world. While there is no doubt about his credentials regarding the canonization, preservation, and transmission of the Bible, he has allowed himself to be blinded by the prejudice the denominational world generally has against the Biblical doctrine of baptism. In his book, *When Critics Ask*, Geisler twists what Paul said with regard to baptism in I Corinthians 1:17. Norman Geisler says, Paul's statement means "baptism is not a part of what saves us." In response to Dr. Geisler's statement Wayne Jackson wrote,

"The apostle was not disassociating himself from the importance of baptism as a component in the sacred plan of redemption (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:27; I Pet. 3:21); rather, he was contending that no special adoration was to be attached to the person administering the rite.

Since Paul himself was immersed in order to have his sins "washed away" (Acts 22:16), and inasmuch as he taught that by means of baptism one enters "into Christ" (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27), he certainly is not about to disavow the divine command as an element apart from the gospel.

It is an egregious fallacy to employ I Corinthians 1:17 in an attempt to nullify God's holy commandment."

Dr. Geisler attacked the Biblical teaching on baptism again in his book, *A Popular Survey of the New Testament*. On page five of that book he argues Mark 16:16 doesn't teach the necessity of baptism for salvation because "nowhere does it say, 'He who is not baptized will be condemned.'" The fallacy of Geisler's reasoning is clear. In Mark 16:16 Jesus said, "He

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that believes and is baptized shall be saved.” Does Jesus need to repeat the relationship of baptism to salvation for it to be true? Does Jesus have to restate the relationship of baptism to salvation in the negative for it to be true? Also, consider the fact that one who does not believe will not be baptized. Therefore, it is unnecessary to say “he that does not believe and is not baptized will be condemned.” One only needs to say “he who does not believe will be condemned” for the statement to maintain its full impact and meaning. This is a very poor effort to get around a very clear statement from our Lord regarding the necessity of baptism in salvation.

Norman Geisler has his own personal website on which he teaches one simply needs to say a prayer in order to be saved. On the same website he dismisses the necessity of baptism for salvation by saying we are saved by faith alone. However Mr. Geisler also teaches through his website that we are saved by grace and saved by the gospel. If grace and the gospel are involved in our salvation then we are most certainly not saved by faith alone. Faith without the grace of God would be of no value, just as faith without obedience to God is of no value. Works of the Law of Moses cannot save us and are not involved in our salvation. There are no works we can perform and rightly say we have earned our salvation. But the reality is that those who do not obey God will not be saved (Matthew 7:21-22). Biblical faith is an obedient faith (James 2:14-26). And, works of obedience to God are involved in our salvation (Revelation 20:12-13). Also consider the fact that even while the Bible teaches us that faith saves, grace saves, and the Gospel saves (all of which Geisler admits), the Bible also teaches us that baptism saves (I Peter 3:21). Therefore, all are involved in our salvation. Grace, faith, the Gospel, and baptism are all necessary elements of salvation.

I have a lot of respect for the academic scholarship of Dr. Norman Geisler. He co-authored a book entitled, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, which I have found to be an excellent resource though I do not agree with everything in it. I also respect the fact that he has worked hard to earn his advanced degrees and most certainly deserves them. There is no doubt he has done some good work in Christian apologetics also. But, the reality is that his scholarship, intellectual standing, and advanced degrees have not helped him to see the truth regarding salvation in general and baptism specifically. On page 141 of his book, *Correcting The*

Cults, Norman Geisler refers to Mark 16:16 and says, “Cults and aberrant groups cite this in support of their belief that baptism is necessary for salvation.” Mirriam-Webster.com defines the word “aberrant” as to mean “straying from the right or normal way.” Dr. Geisler would then classify the churches of Christ as those who are straying from the right and normal way, and he would also then classify the Lord’s church as a cult. Geisler would do well to stick with what he knows about the canonization, transmission, and preservation of the Bible, and stay away from writing and lecturing on salvation. As smart as he is, he has been blinded by the typical prejudice of a denominational world caught in the grips of the philosophy espoused by John Calvin.

Kevin V. Rutherford

READ THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2017

January 23 - Matt. 15:1-20
January 24 - Matt. 15:21-39
January 25 - Matt. 16
January 26 - Matt. 17



January 27 - Matt. 18:1-20
January 28 - Matt. 18:21-35
January 29 - Matt. 19



OUR SICK Please Remember in Your Prayers

Please continue to keep Frank & Jane Shepard, Wanda Elam, Elwood Flinchum, Mary Tesh, Bob Plunk, Charlie Parker and Wayne & Cathy Hutchins in your prayers.

Wanda Elam has been moved to the Kate B. Reynolds Hospice Home, Room #3.

Gene Southern's last test was on his right carotid where they found an aneurysm at the lining on the right of his brain. He will undergo surgery on Jan. 31st and will spend the night in intensive care. If all goes well, he may be able to go home the next day. Please keep him in your prayers.

Bob Plunk was able to attend services last Lord's Day. Please continue to pray for him as he is receiving cancer treatments.

Ellen Wingo's sister, **Paula Reber**, underwent surgery this past Tuesday to have a kidney removed due to cancer. She is doing well and the prognosis is good.

Mary Ellen Dull was reported to be ill this past week.

Mary Seal was taken to the Baptist Hospital this past Wednesday for extreme pain and high blood pressure after a tooth extraction but was later released.

A family friend of Lori Spencer (Nancy Minor's sister) **Brian Currie** was recently diagnosed with a very aggressive type of cancer. He has started chemo. Please pray for him and his wife, Betty Ann.

Please pray for **Ray Walters** who had a stroke on Jan. 12th. He is Dean and Glenda Binkley's brother-in-law. Please keep Ray and his family in your prayers.

Marvin Wellstead, a member of the Center Road church of Christ where Allan Knight preaches has been put in the VA Hospital in Michigan with an infection and white blood count of 20,000. Please keep him and his family in your prayers.

At the request of a few who have asked, addresses have been posted on the bulletin board for Emily Workman's cousins to whom you can send sympathy cards in the recent death of her great aunt. Thank so much for your prayers and concern.

RESPONSE

We commend Darren McBrayer who came forward last Wednesday evening confessing error in his life and requesting the prayers of the congregation.

~IN SYMPATHY~

Our sympathy goes out to Betty Doss and family in the death of Brother Curtis Doss who passed away on January 18th. A memorial service will be held today at 3 p.m. in Virginia with Frank Shepard speaking. Tim Allen will be driving the church bus—those who wish to attend and ride the bus, please see Tim. The timing of the service and the travel time will not allow the possibility to be able to return in time for the evening services here at Warners Chapel.

Welcome

WE ARE HAPPY TO HAVE YOU VISITING WITH US THIS MORNING. WE INVITE YOU TO RETURN THIS EVENING AT 6:00 P.M. FOR THE SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE AND AT 7:00 P.M. EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING FOR THE MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY.

WARNERS CHAPEL EVENTS:

January 22 - Ladies Day Planning session following the morning worship service. The Ladies Day will be March 4th. Please plan to stay for the meeting.

January 24 - Sewing for Nicaragua from 9-12 a.m. in Annex.

January 26 - The 50 and Over Class will meet at 10:30 in the Annex.

SOUTHWEST FOOD PANTRY

The suggested items for **January 2017** is peanut butter and jelly (in plastic containers. No glass containers allowed)

SHUT-INS

Mildred Barker
Lutrelle Chipman

Dot Pegram
Eva Nelle Sidden

Please keep the shut-ins in your prayers and check the sign-up sheet to take communion to Dot Pegram if you are able. (sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board)

Doing The Impossible

Over the desk of a successful business man is this motto, "The difficult we do immediately - the impossible takes a little longer."

Many years ago, the great apostle Paul said it a little differently and much more effectively, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

There are no words in the Bible more full of inspiration to a child of God. Anything that is RIGHT for us to do can be done! God has never given an impossible command.

—Selected

FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study - January 15, 2017	119
Sunday Worship Service	166
Contribution for January 15, 2017	\$8,305
Daily Adult Bible Readers:	35
Chapters Read:	534
Sunday Evening Worship Service	96
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 1-18-17	101

Lord's Day Appointments For January, 2017

Serving the Lord's Table For January:

Al Lawson

Alfred Huff	Neal Harper
Wayne Allen	Jody Everett
	Lou Ann Harper
	Clayton Workman
	Shawn Thomason

Preparing Communion for January:

Making Announcements on Sunday:

Making Announcements on Wednesday:

Lord's Day Appointments - January 29, 2017

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture - Andy Santiago	Morning - Tim Allen	A.M. - Wayne Allen	A.M. - Jim Harrison
Song Leader - Don Minor	Evening - Jason Allen	P.M. - Youth Led Service	P.M. - Roger Allen
Prayer - Mark Minor		Wed. - Mark Roy	

Greeters for January:

Mike and Laura Cooper

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday: - Jan. 29	-	Todd Hinson
Wednesday: - Feb. 2	-	Todd Hinson

Lord's Day Appointments - January 22, 2017

DEVOTIONS:	OPENING PRAYER:	SONG LEADER	SCRIPTURE READERS
Scripture - Robby Landry	Morning - Tommy Rose	A.M. - Jason Allen	A.M. - David Moore
Song Leader - Steve Tesh	Evening - Allen Cooper	P.M. - Don Minor	P.M. - Bill Carothers
Prayer - Al Lawson		Wed. - Song Req. Service Roger A. & Tim Allen	

Opening and Closing Building

Sunday: - January 22	-	Mark Roy
Wednesday: - January 25	-	Mark Roy

January:

Mike and Laura Cooper

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES - *Nursery open for small children during all services.*

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes	10:00 AM
Morning Worship	10:50 AM
Evening Worship	6:00 PM
WEDNESDAY: Mid-Week Service	7:00 PM

“GETTING TO KNOW YOUR BIBLE” at 10:30 p.m. each week night on Cable 8
SEARCH PROGRAM - Sunday Mornings at 7:30 a.m. on Cable 68

WARNERS CHAPEL CHURCH OF CHRIST
8999 LASATER ROAD
CLEMMONS, NC 27012

ELDERS

DEACONS

David Moore
Tim Allen
Joe Everett
Todd Hinson
Steve Tesh

Randy Warner
Keith Warner
Andy Santiago
Mark Minor
Jason Allen

Mike Cooper
Jody Everett
Gene Southern
Shawn Thomason