

4th & Stewart church of Christ

"...upon this rock I will build my church;
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
~ Matthew 16:18



January 5, 2014

Contact Us:

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Meeting Times:

Sunday:

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship..... 10:40 AM
Care, Inc. Service..... 2:30 PM
Worship..... 6:00 PM

Tuesday:

Redstone Class..... 9:30 AM

Wednesday:

Ladies Bible Class On Break
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders:

Gene Bannister..... Billy Chism

Deacons:

Mike Bannister..... Jim Moore

Don Smith..... James Thomas

Preacher:

Johnny McCaghren

Works We Support:

Cherokee Home for Children
Gospel Broadcast Network
Heart of Texas Bible Camp (Bangs)
House to House, Heart to Heart
Mission Printing
Rohan Jones, Africa
The Truth in Love
World Bible School

Let us know if you want to study
the Bible to know more about
Christ and His Church.

Immerse, Pour or Sprinkle? (Why Baptism Matters Series)

By Chris McCurley



Virtually every religion in the realm of Christendom believes in baptism and practices baptism in some fashion. However, not all religions believe in its essential nature, nor do all of them administer baptism by immersion. Although the Greek term from which we get our word for *baptism* is clearly defined, and can only be defined, as "to dip," "to plunge," or "to immerse," this hasn't deterred some from practicing a form of baptism foreign to scripture.

It should be noted that the English words *baptize* or *baptism* are not direct translations from the original New Testament Greek. Rather, they are what is known

as a transliteration; meaning that the word itself has been altered so that it could be incorporated into the English language. In simple terms, it's a Greek word with an English spelling. As previously noted, the term is properly defined as "to dip," "to plunge," or "to immerse." It cannot be defined to include "sprinkling," or "pouring;" two methods that are often used in churches today to signify baptism. In the Greek language, the words for *sprinkling* and *pouring* are altogether different words. In the Septuagint (the translation of the Hebrew Bible into Koine Greek), "dip" is distinguished from "sprinkle," and "pour." Note the following Old Testament passage from Leviticus:

"The priest shall also take some of the log oil, and pour it into his left palm; the priest shall then dip his right-hand finger into the oil that is in his left palm, and with his finger sprinkle some of the oil seven times before the Lord" (Lev. 14:15 & 16).

This passage indicates a distinct difference between "dip," "sprinkle," and "pour," as three very different terms are used to express each action.

Baptism is a specific verb conveying a very specific action. It's a word that projects clear imagery. Even if we didn't know the proper definition of this word, we would need to look no further than the New Testament to see the action described.

* John the Baptizer immersed hundreds of souls in the Jordan River. Matthew 3:6 tells us that "they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins."

* The Gospel of Mark records the baptism of Jesus, our Lord. He, too, was baptized into the Jordan River. Verse 10 reads, "[I]mmediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him."

(Continued on page 3)

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:7,8



Letter sent from brother Loy Mitchell to preachers in Africa—December 2013

We thank God for your work in the kingdom of Christ. We know the devil wants to destroy the work of God. The devil is not happy to see souls saved and to see churches grow in numbers and spiritual strength. Yes, he would like to destroy you and the work you do in the vineyard of the Lord.

I arrived in Zimbabwe on March 16, 1958 to preach the gospel and train men to preach. We are pleased to see thousands turn from sin to Jesus Christ and be obedient to the gospel. Hundreds have been trained as preachers. Most have done a great work in the proclamation of the gospel. We are happy to see several congregations with elders and deacons. We pray daily for the work of God in Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and the entire world.

I am 81 years old and I do not know how much longer I will live in this mortal body. It is our plan to close the African Fund no later than December of 2016. To this end we have helped 39 preachers with project funds. Projects need to be approved by older men such as C. Mugweni and E. Gwazaza. Some men are doing well with their projects while others have failed. Some way or somehow the church in Zimbabwe must grow in their giving if they want supported preachers.

Funds for the African Fund continue to drop. Several members have died who used to be generous. Some congregations have dropped their support of the African Fund. I have told you this before, yet every day I receive more and more requests for school fees, medical bills, replacement money for failed projects, and other things. Brethren, I cannot send what we do not have. You in Africa must work hard to help the work financially and spiritually.

There are some things that trouble me about some preachers.

1. Some do not send reports on a monthly basis yet they expect funds every month.
2. When I look at the giving each Sunday, it is clear that too many preachers are not giving as prospered nor are they teaching on giving.
3. It seems that education has first place in your family budgets and the work of God toward the last.
4. Why are worship assemblies cancelled on Sundays and funerals attended? Is it a sin to forsake the assembly of the church?

I will not cease to work and pray for the work in Africa, but brethren the time has come for you to do what you know needs to be done (II Timothy 4:1-5).

Your brother in Christ,

Loy Mitchell

Lord willing, brother Mitchell will be with us for our Gospel Meeting in May. He has a great love for the Lord and for His church. As you can see, he does not back away from what needs to be said, even when it is hard to hear. When he comes, he will **Preach the Word**.

Keep the brethren in Africa, and in all the world, in your prayers. Many of them live under conditions that we cannot imagine, often brought about by their own corrupt governments. Food is often hard to come by. Nevertheless, they still have an obligation to give. They have the example of the poor Macedonians (2 Cor 8:1-5). If a local congregation has at least ten families and each gives 10%, they can support a preacher at the same economic level at which they live. However, many of the preachers want more. It is difficult problem in many mission fields. Thank you, Loy, for your many years of service to God and to the people of Zimbabwe.

Johnny

Television

The Truth In Love (Robert Dodson)
Sunday @ 7:00 am on KTAB
In Search of the Lord's Way
Sunday @ 7:30 am on KTAB
Gospel Broadcasting Network
Online: 24/7 @ gbntv.org and on Roku
TV: Sunday @ 6:30 am on
Dish: 267, DirectTV: 376

Radio

Preaching the Word (Michael Light)
Sunday @ 9:00am on KOXE 101.3

God's Plan for Redeeming Man

Hear Learn the saving message of Christ's sacrifice (1 Cor. 1:18; Rom. 10:17).
Believe Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24)
Confess Jesus as your Lord, Lawgiver, and King (Rom. 10:9-10; Matt. 10:32-33)
Repent of your sinful conduct (Luke 13:3,5)
Complete your initial obedience to the gospel by being **baptized** for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
Live faithfully (Rev. 2:10; 2 Tim. 4:7-8)

Bible Study Schedule

Week 106
Proverbs 3-8
& Hebrews 7-8

Study sheets are available at the back of the auditorium.

*"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
(2 Timothy 2:15)*



Special Announcements

- ◆ **Monthly Fellowship Meal** today after morning worship.
- ◆ **Monthly Elders, Deacons, and Preacher's Meeting** this afternoon after fellowship meal.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting with Loy Mitchell:** May 11-14, 2014.

Visitation Meeting

Remember our visitation meeting each Sunday night following the evening worship to sign cards and discuss the work going on. Last week **15 contacts** were made.

A man travelling though the country noticed that the weather vane on the roof of a farm building bore the phrase, "God Is Love." He was troubled about it and asked the farmer, "Do you think God's love is as unchangeable as that weather vane?"

"You miss the point, sir," replied the farmer. "It is on the weather vane because no matter which way the wind is blowing, God is still love!"

"So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 Jn 4:16)

Celebrate

"Rejoice with those who rejoice..." (Romans 12:15)

January Birthdays: Bennie White (16), Tom Wilcox (17), Anita Boyd (19), Jaceton Evetts (22), Lily Martinez (22), Mattison Churchwell (25), Judie Turner (29), Charles White (30).

January Anniversaries: Jim and Peggy Moore (22).

Mistakes? Left Out? Let Johnny know...

(Continued from page 1)

* In Acts Chapter 8, verses 35-38, we read of Philip baptizing an Ethiopian eunuch. Notice the imagery being conveyed: *"And he ordered the chariot to stop; and they both went down into the water, Philip as well as the eunuch, and he baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; and the eunuch no longer saw him, but went on his way rejoicing."*

The fact that the first baptisms were done "in" the Jordan River is very telling. Jesus was baptized "into" the Jordan River. Philip and the eunuch went down "into" the water to be baptized. The picture drawn by God is not one of sprinkling or pouring. There would be no need to go down "into" the water to administer sprinkling or pouring. The imagery conveyed is that of immersion.

The Apostle Paul compared baptism to a burial. In Romans 6:3 & 4 he writes: *"Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death..."* No honest heart can suggest that Biblical baptism constitutes *sprinkling* or *pouring* after being confronted with Paul's metaphor of a *burial*. If *sprinkling* or *pouring* can be equated to *immersion* then the two terms should fit nicely into Paul's discourse on the subject. Romans 6:3 & 4 would read: *"Or do you not know that all of us who have been **sprinkled/poured** into Christ Jesus have been **sprinkled/poured** into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through **sprinkling/pouring** into death..."*

If baptism is a burial, as Paul describes, then *sprinkling* or *pouring* will not do. When we place someone in the ground for burial, we do not sprinkle dirt on the casket. We immerse the casket into the ground because that is what constitutes a proper burial.

As I stated in an earlier post, this blog series is not meant to be rude, insensitive, or polemic. My aim is to encourage all of us to study our current practices within the church we have affiliated ourselves with. Examine the scriptures. Is the Bible your ultimate authority? Are you following God's word or the teachings of man? Can you find your religion within the pages of scripture? Do you wear a label other than Christian? If so, why? Isn't Christian enough? Are you following Jesus according to His will? These are serious questions with eternal consequences. Many sincere, God-fearing individuals have been led down a precarious spiritual path.

May we all heed the words of Paul to Timothy: **"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15).**

Records

	Dec. 22, 2013	Dec. 29, 2013
Bible Class	41	47
AM Worship	63	61
PM Worship	46	55
Wednesday PM	25	46
Contribution	\$1831	\$1416



Privileged To Serve

"...be ready to every good work" (Titus 3:1)

	Next Week: 1/5/14	Next Week: 1/12/14		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	January 2014 Make Announcements: Ken Maninger Prepare Communion: Don & Darlene Smith Clean Building: Jim & Peg Moore Keep Grounds: James Fuller February 2014 Make Announcements: Jim Moore Prepare Communion: Johnny & Cindy McCaghren Clean Building: John Barnum Family Keep Grounds: Tom Wilcox	
Greeters	Tom and Carol Wilcox	Gene and Barbara Bannister		
Opening Prayer	Don Smith	Joe Dennis		
Communion	Joe Dennis*, Gene Bannister Garrett Barnum, Hank Wheeler	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Ken Maninger, Kevin Wilcox		
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Garrett Barnum		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Ken Maninger	Song Leader: Joe Dennis		
Opening Prayer	James Fuller	Ken Maninger		
Scripture Reading	Allen Griffith	John Barnum		
Communion	Joe Dennis	Allen Griffith		
Closing Prayer	Kevin Wilcox	Jim Moore		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 8 Allen Griffith	January 15 Johnny McCaghren	January 22 Tom Wilcox	January 22 Kevin Wilcox

Search the Scriptures

Be like the Bereans who "received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so." (Acts 17:11)

Studies for the week of January 5, 2014		Sunday Class Identity of the New Testament Church	Wednesday PM Mark: Chapter 2
<p>Who Will Be In Heaven?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Heaven is a place where God will be with His people (Rev 21:3) ◆ Only a few will be in heaven ◆ This is clearly taught in Scripture (Mt 7:13,14; 1 Peter 3:20,21) ◆ Examples: Israel (only Joshua and Caleb); Parable of the Sower (only one of four) ◆ Only those who love the Truth ◆ Truth is a treasure we must seek out, obtain, and guard at all costs (Ps 119:11,72; Mt 6:19-21) ◆ We need truth to expose Satan's traps (Ps 119:105; 2 Peter 1:3,4) ◆ We must take every effort to learn the truth (2 Tim 2:15) ◆ Only those who seek It first ◆ There are many things we need in this life, and many more that we want ◆ We are promised the things we need, if we seek first the proper things (Mt 6:30-34) ◆ The spiritual is far more important than the physical (2 Peter 3:10; Mt 13:44-46) ◆ Only those who endure ◆ Satan does not give up easily! ◆ Only those who endure are promised heaven (1 Thess 4:13-16; James 1:12; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Rev 14:13) ◆ Are you one of the "few" who will enter heaven, or one of the "many" who will not? 	<p>Unleashing God's Word In Your Life Lesson 4—A Word You Can Count On</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ People view the Bible differently <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "The Bible? It's just another book." ◆ "The Bible? It's important—but I don't read it." ◆ "The Bible? It's the only book for man" ◆ God's Word Is Infallible <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "Perfect" (Ps 19:7; 119:160) ◆ Flawless—because it was authored by a God who is flawless ◆ God's Word Is Inerrant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Infallible in its totality; Inerrant in all its parts (Pr 30:5) ◆ Inerrancy and infallibility go hand in hand ◆ "Truthfulness" (Isa 65:16; Jer 10:10; Jn 3:33; 17:3; 1 Jn 5:20); from God who cannot lie (Num 23:19; Titus 1:2; Heb 6:18) ◆ Man has tried diligently to find fault with the Bible, but have never found even one legitimate fault ◆ The Bible is God's Word and God is a God of Truth ◆ God's Word Is Authoritative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The final word—the highest standard of authority ◆ Many refuse to recognize the authority of the Bible, choosing instead to place themselves as the authority ◆ God's Word Is Effective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ One of the most powerful claims to the Bible's infallibility, inerrancy, and authority is its effectiveness ◆ God's Word will do what it says it will do! 		