

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 12, 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.

Mark 16:16

(Why Baptism Matters Series)

By Chris McCurley



Beware of *Study Bibles*. More often than not, they contain exposition from someone who is promoting a theological agenda. Rather than "accurately handling the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:14)," they typically promote a denominational doctrine. Sadly, many people elevate the commentary to the level of authority. At the very least folks become confused. At the very worst, they are led astray from Biblical truth.

In *The Gospel of Mark* we find a simple and straightforward verse that states, "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved;

but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned." Any serious Bible student must avoid practicing "one-verse theology." That being said, I do not rest my case for the essential nature of baptism on this one verse. However, there is no denying the plain message of this statement. Still, the clarity and simplicity of this verse hasn't stopped some "theologians" and "scholars" from attempting to explain it away. The following comment appears in the *Life Application Bible*:

"It is not the water of baptism that saves, but God's grace accepted through faith in Christ. Because of Jesus' response to the thief on the cross who died with Him, we know it is possible to be saved without being baptized."

The Hebrew-Greek Key Study Bible has this to say regarding Mark 16:16:

"However, in order that no one may think that baptism by itself saves or will save anyone, the Lord adds, 'But he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.' The negative statement does not include baptism. It does not say 'he who did not believe and who was not baptized is condemned.' Therefore, it is absolutely clear that what saves a person is living faith in Jesus Christ which may be followed by baptism. However, there surely were people who were baptized and whose baptism was not the true demonstration of their inner, saving faith. These people will perish. We never find the expression in the N.T. that he who was not baptized will perish."

Mark didn't feel it necessary to add the statement, "he who is not baptized will be condemned," because the person who fails to believe will be condemned regardless of how many times he or she is baptized.

It is my sincere belief that many people are more dedicated to a religion or a doctrine than they are to God and His Holy Word. Any honest spiritual seeker can easily discern the meaning of Mark 16:16. Instead of trying to explain it away with silly reasoning that

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Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.... So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

1 Corinthians 13:8,13

8 People the Bible Says are Going to Hell

By Wes McAdams



I realize the subject of hell has become completely taboo in our culture. Many Christians have even begun to deny its existence. But the same Bible that teaches about Jesus, heaven, love, and salvation also teaches about a very real place called “hell.” Jesus describes it as a place of “unquenchable fire” (Mark 9:43). And it might surprise you who will spend eternity there.

Here is a list of eight people, from Revelation 21:8, that will be spending eternity in hell. This list is hardly exhaustive.

1. Those who let their **fear** keep them from being obedient to God will spend eternity in hell.
2. Those who **do not believe** in God – and those who do **not remain faithful** to Him – will spend eternity in hell.
3. Those who behave in a “**detestable**” way will spend eternity in hell.
4. Those who are **murderers** will spend eternity in hell.
5. Those who are **sexually immoral** (adulterers, fornicators, homosexuals, etc.) will spend eternity in hell.
6. Those who practice **sorcery** will spend eternity in hell.
7. Those who are **worshippers of idols** will spend eternity in hell.

8. Those who are **liars** will spend eternity in hell.

I realize it isn’t politically correct to say someone is going to hell. But the truth is, millions of people are headed there. **All of us deserve to go there, but only those who follow Christ will avoid it (Romans 6:23)!** So, if you are not faithfully following Christ, repent now! As long as you are still alive, it is not too late for you to avoid this destiny!

Jesus said unless you repent you will perish (Luke 13:3). He said if one of your body parts causes you to sin, cut it off or pluck it out, “For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell” (Matthew 5:30). God has provided a way for you to avoid hell, but you must avail yourself to the opportunity. If you do not respond to God’s offer of salvation, you will find yourself in a place of unspeakable torment (Luke 16:28).

Hell is nothing to be laughed at or joked about. It should be the absolutely most sobering topic in the world. Jesus will return. And when He does, he will do so “in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

You might say – as many do - **but that’s not fair!** And you’d be right...if you were perfect! But you’re not perfect. You’re not even close to perfect – and neither am I (Romans 3:23)!

I’ll tell you what’s not fair. What’s not fair is that Jesus died so you and I could avoid spending eternity in that horrible place! That’s not fairness; that’s grace (Ephesians 2:8). Trust me, you don’t want fairness. You want mercy!

I hope – if you have not obeyed the gospel of Christ, or if you are not currently living as a faithful disciple – you will make the necessary changes and avoid the coming judgement.

I love you and God loves you.

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 107
Proverbs 9-14
& Hebrews 9-10

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)



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is anything but “scholarly,” let us accept the simplicity of the verse.

To argue that, “It’s not the water of baptism that saves,” is nothing more than a smokescreen. No one should believe or teach that the mere act of baptism is what saves a person. The blood of Jesus is what washes away one’s sins. Christ obtained salvation through His obedience and grants salvation to all those who obey Him (Heb. 5:8 & 9). Baptism is not the only condition of salvation, but it is a condition one must meet in order to be saved (Acts 2:38; 1 Pet. 3:21).

It is common in the New Testament for a writer to detail certain conditions that are essential to salvation without mentioning all of the requirements at once. Many times we find *faith* mentioned by itself, as well as *repentance* or *confession*. In Acts 2:38 we see *repentance* and *baptism* mentioned as conditions of salvation. Does this mean that *faith* is not essential? Of course not. In Romans 10:10 Paul speaks of confession resulting in salvation. Does this exclude repentance? Absolutely not. Each condition of salvation, while mentioned separately at times, make up a larger process for the sinner to follow. If only those who believe in “faith only” could grasp this concept.

Some have gone so far as to dismiss Mark 16:16 on the basis that it did not appear in the original manuscripts. However, the authenticity of this passage can hardly be argued. The genuineness of this text has been defended by many reputable scholars. While Mark 16:9-20 is termed a “textual variant,” it’s likely Mark wrote these words before the composition of his gospel and added them to the manuscript at a later date. I find it almost comical that many of the commentators who argue the authenticity of Mark 16:9-20 still feel compelled to comment on it.

Amid all the controversy and confusion surrounding the issue of baptism, scripture presents undeniable truth on the subject. It is necessary. Not only is it necessary, it is essential for one to be saved because it is the only way that we can contact the blood of Christ. It is inseparable from faith, as well as belief, repentance and confession. It does not stand alone, but neither do any of the others. It is a natural response to the one who gave His life for us. It is the proper response to faith in our Lord and Savior.

For further study: *The Assault on Mark 16:16* by Wayne Jackson. <https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/605-assault-upon-mark-16-16-the>.

Visitation Meeting

- ◆ Each Sunday night following the evening worship. Last week **21 contacts** were made.

Special Announcements

- ◆ **3rd Sunday finger foods** after evening services **cancelled** until further notice.
- ◆ **Gospel Meeting with Loy Mitchell: May 11-14, 2014.**

In The Area

- ◆ Jan. 26—**Bible Bowl** in Dublin
- ◆ Feb. 9-12—**Equip Seminar** at Oldham Lane in Abilene (Steve Higginbotham)
- ◆ Apr. 6-9—**Gospel Meeting** in Hamilton (Mike Vestal)
- ◆ Apr. 6-9—**Gospel Meeting** in DeLeon (Paul Shero)
- ◆ Apr. 20-23—**Gospel Meeting** in San Angelo (BJ Clarke)
- ◆ May 4-7—**Gospel Meeting** in Gordon (Michael Light)
- ◆ Jun. 29-Jul. 3—**Junior Camp**
- ◆ Jul. 20-25—**Senior Camp**

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...



Records

	Dec. 29, 2013	Jan. 5, 2014
Bible Class	47	40
AM Worship	61	59
PM Worship	55	41
Wednesday PM	46	42
Contribution	\$1416	\$1643

Privileged To Serve

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

	This Week: 1/12/14	Next Week: 1/19/14		
Sunday AM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	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	Gene and Barbara Bannister	Joe and Lasha Dennis		
Opening Prayer	Tom Wilcox	Joe Dennis		
Communion	Allen Griffith*, Jim Moore Ken Maninger, Kevin Wilcox	Don Smith*, Hank Wheeler Jim Moore, Gene Bannister		
Closing Prayer	Garrett Barnum	Don Smith		
Attendance Cards	Chase Churchwell	Caleb Dennis		
Sunday PM:	Song Leader: Mike Bannister	Song Leader: James Fuller		
Opening Prayer	Ken Maninger	Billy Chism		
Scripture Reading	John Barnum	Tom Wilcox		
Communion	Allen Griffith	Don Smith		
Closing Prayer	Jim Moore	Gene Bannister		
Wednesday Devotionals:	January 15 Johnny McCaghren	January 22 Tom Wilcox	January 29 Kevin Wilcox	February 5 Garrett Barnum

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 12, 2014	Sunday Class Identity of the New Testament Church Wednesday PM Mark: Chapter 2
<p><i>A Faithful Christian's Perspective on Death</i> Text: John 14:1-6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Jesus' death was only hours away. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ His apostles saw it as a great tragedy, an occasion of great sadness. ◆ However, Jesus assured them, "I am going to the Father (v. 28) ◆ "I go to prepare a place for you" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ "Let not your heart be troubled" ◆ "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope" (1 Thess 4:13) ◆ We often misunderstand the importance of the termination of this earthly life. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ <i>Death is not the end—it is the beginning!</i> ◆ <i>The passing of a faithful Christian is a homecoming—a most joyous occasion.</i> ◆ He that "lives" and "believes" in Me shall never die (Jn 11:24,25) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ We possess an immortal spirit—we will live forever. ◆ Everything dies physically, but since man is an immortal spirit, physical death is just a transition. ◆ "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil 1:21) ◆ "Comfort one another with these words" (1 Thess 4:13-18) ◆ "Let not your heart be troubled" ◆ Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. Are you? 	<p><i>Unleashing God's Word In Your Life</i> Lesson 4—The Word on the Word</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Imagine the Bible is on trial for claiming to be something it is not, God's Word, and you are the counsel for the defense. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ What witnesses could you call to testify to the truthfulness of the Bible? ◆ The Bible writers—several thousand times these men claimed to be writing the Word of God. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ They made no apologies for what they said or wrote—instead, they spoke with an air of authority. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ They wrote of things no one of their time could have known. ◆ The only reasonable source of the information was outside of themselves. ◆ They constantly claimed to be speaking for God, and verified that outer Bible writers spoke for God as well. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ OT writers referred to their writings as God's Word 3,808 times. ◆ NT writers quoted the OT at least 320 times, and called the OT "Scripture." ◆ Acts and the Epistles also bear witness to this claim. ◆ We can also call Jesus Christ as witness. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ He believed every word of the OT. ◆ A full 10% of the verses in the NT recording Jesus' own words, are Him quoting from the OT. ◆ The only possible verdict is that the Scriptures are indeed God's inspired Word.