

NEWS & NOTES

THE SICK: *Jack and Onzell Tucker* continue to be confined at home. ~ Buffy Wallen's grandmother and James McConnell's aunt, **Nadine Thompson**, is in the Lauderdale Christian Nursing Home in Killen. ~ Eric White's father, **Jim White**, continues his cancer treatments. ~ Judy Williams' mother **Flossie Kizzire**, continues in a nursing facility in Fayette ~ **Jerry Dickey** is continuing to receive cancer treatments. ~ **Frances Resse**, Aric Butler's grandmother, in Brookings, Oregon is very sick with lung cancer and has taken a turn for the worse. ~ **Carson Crunk** had his tonsils removed last week is doing well. ~ **Helen Trousdale**, is home recovering. ~ **Sanda Martel** is still recovering from her broken leg. ~ **C.L. Weathers** is continuing cancer treatments. Others on the sick list include: **Laura Andrews, Scottie Goode, Ronnie Phillips, Virginia Lovell, Melissa Parker.**

Let Us Keep Our Expecting Mothers In Our Prayers: Amy Bassham, Andrea Butler, Laurie Chancellor, Katy Garner, Suzette McIntyre

Other News: I will be away this week at the Florida College Lectures. Speaking Sunday morning is **Cecil Cox**, Sunday Evening **Brian Blakely**, and teaching Bible Class Wednesday Night will be **Cecil Cox**. (*Proverbs 4*).

COMMUNICATIONS GROUP: Tonight after our evening service will be the meeting time for "Group D". If you are in this group, be sure to attend this meeting.

FOR THE RECORD: (Week of February 1st)

Sunday:	
Bible Classes	114
Morning Worship	128
Evening Worship	70
Wednesday:	
Bible Classes	64

Schedule of Services

Sunday
 Bible Classes 9:45 AM
 Morning Worship 10:45 AM
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM
 3rd Sunday Worship (*Singing*)... 3:30 PM

Wednesday
 Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Elders
 Michael Clemmons...(256) 247-0836
 Scottie Goode.....(931) 565-3391

Deacons
 Jimmy Glass.....(256) 247-0571
 Eddie J. Hammond...(256) 247-3038
 Mark McIntyre.....(256) 729-8316
 Steve Parker.....(256) 247-7843
 Phil Pressnell.....(256) 232-8509
 Rocky Rose.....(256) 247-0011
 Brian Word.....(931) 565-3799

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Gospel Power



"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation..." **Romans 1:16**

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The Gospel Power is published in interest of New Testament Christianity and to enhance the work of the Anderson church.

Anderson church of Christ
 5900 Highway 207
 Anderson, Alabama

www.Anderson-church.org

Men Privileged To Serve This Week:

Sunday Morning Bible Classes
Song Leader – Phil Pressnell
Bible Reading – James Adams
Joshua 3:7-13
Prayer – Scottie Goode

Sunday Morning Worship
Song Leader – Phil Pressnell
Prayer – Ray Tucker
Lord's Supper
Presiding – Steve Parker
Assisting – Andrew Gatlin
Serving – Corey Goode, Aric Butler, Mark McCrary, Billy Wallen
Closing Prayer – James Word

Sunday Evening Worship
Song Leader – Daniel Clemmons
Bible Reading – Brian Word
Joshua 3:14-17
Prayer – Kevin Chancellor
Lord's Supper – Steve Parker, Andrew Gatlin
Closing Prayer – Rocky Rose

Wednesday Bible Classes
Song Leader – Ronnie Phillips
Prayer – Mark McIntyre
Bible Reading – Rodney McCrary
Joshua 4:1-7
Invitation – Cecil Cox
Closing Prayer – Jimmy Glass

The Spiritual Significance of Baptism

Mark Larson

"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, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (**Rom. 6:3-4**, NASB). Clearly, baptism is no mere symbol or ritual. Baptism is what enters us into union with Christ! Baptism into Christ establishes a real spiritual connection to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Baptized Into the Death of Christ: Baptism is not just about receiving the forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**), it is our union with the death of Jesus! "All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been **baptized into His death**" (**Rom. 6:3**). Jesus the Savior died for *our* sins. Sin is what brought Him to the cross. Rather than a continued desire for sin after baptism, there should be a hatred and rejection of sin, the very thing that caused Jesus to die in the first place. "And He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, **that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed**" (**1 Pet. 2:24**). Baptism into Christ is absolutely essential to putting to death our sins: "For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that **our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin**" (**Rom. 6:5-6**). →

Buried with Christ: The word baptism literally means “immersion.” Every person, including Jesus, who was baptized was immersed (not sprinkled or poured) in water (e.g., **Mark 1:9-10; Acts 8:38-39**). That is why the apostle Paul says to the Christians at Rome: “... *We have been buried with Him through baptism...*” (**Rom. 6:4**; See also **Col. 2:11-12**). A burial best represents baptism (i.e., immersion). There is great spiritual significance to being buried with Jesus. Just as a real burial involves a real death, so does baptism (which is a “burial”) result in a real spiritual death to sin. Baptism is not merely a “good work” nor is it to be done as a public display of becoming a member of a local church. Baptism into Christ is essential to putting to death our sins!

Raised with Christ: Baptism into Christ introduces us to a new life! “*Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life*” (**Rom. 6:4**). Baptism is necessary “so we too” may rise to live a new life. Just as Christ was raised or “born again” from the dead (**Rev. 1:5; Col. 1:18**), we too are raised or “born again” to a new life after baptism (**John 3:3, 5**). “Newness of life” entails all spiritual blessings that are given in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**). Specifically, we are no longer “dead in sin” (**Eph. 2:1-2**), but instead “*dead to sin*” and “*alive to God in Christ Jesus*” (**Rom. 6:11**). There is “newness of life” because each Christian is now a new person in Christ, living life in service to God, not sin: “*Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come*” (**2 Cor. 5:17**). Only those who have been baptized into Christ are “in Christ” and are living the new life in Him.

Salvation Through Christ: “*And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*” (**1 Pet. 3:21**). This straight forward passage about baptism makes it perfectly clear that baptism is for our salvation. Those who dismiss baptism as non-essential or optional, ignore this plain statement of Scripture. Baptism does not in any way diminish the achievement of Christ on the cross for our sins. Instead, baptism is a commandment we must obey to gain access to the saving power of Jesus. Notice what makes baptism powerful: Not the water itself (“*the removal of dirt from the flesh*”), but the appeal we make to God “*for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ*” (**1 Pet. 3:21**). Jesus is still the means of our salvation, eternal life is still a free gift (**Rom. 6:23**), we are simply meeting the Lord’s condition for salvation as commanded in Scripture: “*He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned*” (**Mark 16:16**).

Added to the Body of Christ: When a person is baptized into Christ, they are also, at the exact same moment, added to the body of Christ: “*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit*” (**1 Cor. 12:13**). His body is the church: “*And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him who fills all in all*” (**Eph. 1:22-23**; See also **Col. 1:18**). To belong to the Lord’s church, there is no waiting for a “church committee” to give their approval. Instead, when you are baptized into Christ you are **automatically**

added to His church and belong to the saved! “*Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit... Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them... And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved’*” (**Acts 2:38, 41, 47, NKJV**; See also **Heb. 12:22-23**).

Make Sure You Have Been Baptized Into Christ! No one is a disciple of Christ until he or she has been baptized into His name (**Mat. 28:18-20**). No one is “in Christ”, a part of Christ, or has fellowship with Christ until he or she comes to Christ in faith to be baptized into Him. “*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ*” (**Gal. 3:26-27**). If you have faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (**John 3:16; Acts 16:31ff.**), are willing to confess Jesus as Lord (**Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37**), and repent of your sins (**Acts 2:38**), then you are ready to be baptized! If you have not yet done so, be baptized into Christ today! *From the Charlottesville Beacon, Volume 1, Issue 21 February 12, 2006*

The Bible In Schools Author Unknown

In the late 1700's, Dr. Benjamin Rush, one of the signers of the U.S. Declaration of Independence and a founder of the first abolition society in America, wrote a *Defense of the Use of the Bible in Schools*. In stating his case, he assumed the following propositions:

1. That Christianity is the only true and perfect religion; and that in proportion as mankind adopt its principles and obey its precepts they will be wise and happy.
2. That a better knowledge of this religion is to be acquired by reading the Bible than in any other way.
3. That the Bible contains more knowledge necessary to man in his present state than any other book in the world.
4. That knowledge is most durable, and religious instruction most useful, when imparted in early life.
5. That the Bible, when not read in schools, is seldom read in any subsequent period of life.

Unfortunately, most educators do not feel this way today. So many children are growing up without the fundamental, moral instructions of the word of God. Many are growing up to despise the Lord and the things He teaches. But, as Christians, we should take to heart the exhortations of those propositions:

Do we believe that the Bible gives us the only true and living way to God, and that following such will make us happy? **Jn. 14:6; Phil. 4:4**

Do we read and study the Bible, knowing it is the only way to a true knowledge of the Lord? **Ac. 17:11**

Do we accept the Bible as the source of greater knowledge for living in our world than any other source? **Col. 1:9**

Are we diligently teaching our children while we have the opportunity to affect them the most? **Eph. 6:4**