

# THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

March 29, 2009

## Adam's Response To A Baptist Pastor--3

**Question 3-** *“If the water pipes broke and the baptistery was bone dry, would my salvation have to wait until the plumber showed up? If I were to die before then, would I go to hell? If obedience to water baptism is the means of forgiveness of sins, then I would.”*

In Acts 8, beginning in verses 25, we have recorded for us the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. Verses 35-39 says: **“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?’ And Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he replied, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.’ And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.”** Surely Mr. Martin is aware of this account and must know that baptism in the first century was done in whatever body of water happened to be near. Should an individual be prepared to obey the gospel, yet a glance into the baptistry showed that it was “bone dry”, we would simply head directly to the first available body of water. As I write this I have lived in Lexington just 26 days but I have already seen several more than sufficient for the task within minutes of where I sit right now. Let us be eternally grateful that our obedience to God does not rely on the schedule of our plumber!

You may hear something like this: “But what if there just isn’t any water anywhere close to them?” How, it may be asked, are a people living if there is no water near them? Water is an essential element to life. There is no doubt that this is the reason that God has given it to man in such abundance. Certainly some have it more abundantly than others, but there is not a people anywhere in this world living without water nearby. Remember, Philip and the eunuch were traveling through the *desert* and found water.

As far as Mr. Martin’s last statement is concerned, in which he states that if baptism were necessary for the forgiveness of sins then not to receive it would consign one to hell, let me simply say that I have no intention of ever finding that out! That very fear is one of the reasons I was baptized. In 1 Peter 3:21 we read, **“Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”** If this statement of Peter is true (and it most certainly is for he spoke through inspiration), then would not the opposite be true as well? If baptism “now saves you”, wouldn’t that

mean that *not* being baptized does the opposite? If not, why not? Instead of trying to find a way out or around clear teaching of Scripture, why not just stick with what it says? We *know* that is a safe course.

I would like to mention one other thing before concluding my answer to this question. Obviously the question that we have just discussed is founded entirely upon emotion rather than Scripture. Doubtless Mr. Martin finds it horrifying and unthinkable that a person who claims to believe in the Lord could be lost eternally because he died in a horrible accident before he could reach the waters of baptism. I will not presume to speak for God in that instance and I will never dare claim that such a soul is safe. I hope and pray that it is, but I cannot make that call. First, I am not God to say whose soul is safe and whose isn't. Second, the only soul that I can really speak for is my own. Third, the Scriptures simply do not deal in hypothetical situations. I do not find *myself* in that situation. Mr. Martin does not find *himself* in that situation. Thus, let us not worry about what God will do in whatever wild and unusual circumstances we can create. That He will do whatever is right, regardless of our thoughts and opinions, is absolutely certain. However, I read what God wants me to do it and I do it. That person who dies in an accident, though certainly tragic, is not my responsibility--he is God's. *I* am my responsibility.

**Passage to Remember**

**“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Acts 1:11**

In Need of Prayers	General Information
<p>Ron and Sharon Tirey were both battling a bug last week.</p> <p>Dylan Erickson has not been feeling well.</p> <p>Mildred Collins (David's mother) surgery went well. Now they are awaiting the results of her thyroid test.</p> <p>Jackie Litmer was admitted to Central Baptist on Thursday due to severe dehydration. For just over two weeks she has not been able to keep anything down and is losing weight at a concerning rate. They are pumping her full of fluids and administering antibiotics to help with the nausea. At the time of this bulletin she was still in the hospital.</p>	<p>Our gospel meeting with David Phillips from Louisville is just around the corner (April 5-10). Have you made your plans to attend? Also, there are still several cards to be passed out advertising the meeting along with David's topics. Please don't forget to pick a few up to pass out to those you come in contact with.</p> <p>The member information sheets are on the table in the foyer and ready to be filled out. This is to update the directory as well as to give folks an opportunity to let the individual who does the duty roster know that they would like to take a "leading" role in the worship service or would be willing to teach a class. Husbands and wives (and children, as the case may be) are asked to fill out separate sheets so as to avoid confusion. Please hand your completed sheets to Garry Banks. At the end of two months the directory will be updated. Please fill out a sheet!</p>

