

GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION

- Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- Believe Jesus is the Christ (John 3:16)
- Repent from sins (Luke 13:3)
- Confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

**List:**

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Paul Atkisson, Rhonda Boyd, Diane Thompson, The Brundige family

**Others:** Mamie Dart, Casey Sparrow, Hope Vinogradov, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Vina Krassow, John Bennett, Robert Brundige, Donald Dawson, Gail Stein, Sandy Childress, Susie Burton, Jacob Profit, Valarie and Barry Boyd, Leroy Weatherholt, Wilma Lawson, Janett Brundige’s mother and stepfather, Diane Whitehead, Tony Tyree, Sandy Driver, Autumn Fox, Beth Erickson, Erlene Young

WEEKLY READING		LEADERSHIP		SERVICES
Mon	1 Kings 12, 2 Chronicles 10-11, Titus 1	ELDERS	DEACONS	Sunday
Tue	1 Kings 13-14, 2 Chronicles 12, Titus 2, Psalm 47	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	Bible Study: 9:45 AM
Wed	1 Kings 15, 2 Chronicles 13-14, Titus 3	David Collins	Richard Brundige	Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM
Thu	2 Chronicles 15-16, 1 Kings 16, Philemon	John Thompson	Matt Thompson	Wednesday
Fri	1 Kings 17-18, Jude, Psalm 119	Adam Litmer	Adam Litmer	Bible Study: 7:30 PM
		EVANGELIST	Bill Morelan	1st Fri. of Month
			Jim Parsons	Singing: 7:30 PM
			Pat Seabolt	3rd Fri. of Month
			Adam Daniels	Bible Study: 7:00 PM
			Jamie Powell	(Finished for the time being)

UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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It’s True. You don’t HAVE to be baptized!

By Adam Litmer

More than once I have found myself involved in a Bible study with folks who eventually closed their Bibles, folded their arms, and declared, “I don’t care what you say. I know that a person doesn’t have to be baptized.” Ignoring the fact that others or I had been quoting verses directly from Scripture rather than stating personal opinions, they just flatly refused to accept it. I don’t respond to such statements the way I used to. Now I just nod and tell them that they’re absolutely right. Neither they nor anyone else HAS to be baptized. In fact, a person only HAS to be baptized if they are seeking to accomplish specific goals and receive certain blessings. You only HAVE to be baptized if...

Note

Today’s classes will be the last for this quarter (except for the college class). The new class quarter begins Wednesday.

- You wish to follow the example of Christ (Matthew 3:16)
- You wish to become the Lord’s disciple (Matthew 28:19)
- You wish to be saved (Mark 16:16)
- You wish to enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:5)
- You wish to have your sins forgiven (Acts 2:38)
- You wish to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38, 5:32)
- You have received the gospel message with gladness (Acts 2:41)
- You believe the gospel message (Acts 8:12)
- You wish to obey the commandments of God (Acts 10:47-48)
- You wish to have your sins washed clean from your soul (Acts 22:16)
- You wish to call upon the name of the Lord through humble obedience (Acts 22:16)
- You wish to be placed “into Christ” (Romans 6:3)
- You wish to join Christ in His death (Romans 6:3)
- You wish to be buried with Christ and join Him in resurrection from the dead by the glory of the Father (Romans 6:4)
- You wish to be united with Jesus in His death and resurrection (Romans 6:5)

*You wish to be crucified with Christ so as to be set free from sin* (Romans 6:6-7)  
*You wish to be washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God* (1 Corinthians 6:11)  
*You wish to be in the body of Christ* (1 Corinthians 12:13)  
*You wish to become a son (or daughter) of God by faith* (Galatians 3:26)  
*You wish to put on Christ* (Galatians 3:27)  
*You wish to be sanctified and cleansed by Christ* (Ephesians 5:26)  
*You wish to be subjected to a divine surgery in which the body of the flesh is put aside through the powerful working of God* (Colossians 2:11-12)  
*You wish to be made alive together with Christ* (Colossians 2:13)  
*You wish to have all your transgressions forgiven* (Colossians 2:13)  
*You wish to be saved by the mercy of God, regenerated, and renewed by the Holy Spirit* (Titus 3:4-7)  
*You wish to have your heart and conscience cleansed* (Hebrews 10:22)  
*You wish to make an appeal to God for a clean conscience* (1 Peter 3:21)  
*You wish to be saved through the resurrection of Jesus Christ* (1 Peter 3:21)

It's true: no one HAS to be baptized. If the blessings listed above simply do not appeal to a person then they may go on about their business without ever coming close to the waters of baptism. However, if they long for the blessings listed above, I pray that they simply do what God has commanded and become a recipient of every one of them.

Hang on to this list, friends. You may find it quite beneficial when studying with someone opposed to the Bible's teaching on baptism.

### **And Then...**

By John Thompson

Setting and following appropriate priorities really does matter, doesn't it? Things just go better when that happens. Take farming, for instance. The farmer who does what needs to be done when it needs to be done is more successful than the farmer who lets things slide. "Make hay while the sun shines" is not just a clever sounding euphemism, but rather is a statement that captures the practice of the successful farmer. The farmer who has already established the priority that harvesting the hay is more important than having a day of fun somewhere is little bothered by changing plans when the weather report says the sunshine will only hold through the afternoon and then rain will begin.

The issue of proper priorities becomes eternally important when we realize that God is extremely interested in the priorities by which we operate. He has put together the world so that things proceed best for us when we make God our highest priority. The portion of the sermon on the mount dealing with anxiety over the necessities of life concludes with *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these*

*things will be added to you."* Setting God and His righteousness as top priority is presumed to be operative as verse 2 of the hymn *Be With Me Lord* begins.

"Be With Me, Lord, and then".... It's those two words, "and then," that are so thought provoking. The fact that the verse begins with "Be with me, Lord" followed by "and then" means that if my priority is doing whatever it takes to ensure that God is with me, it doesn't really matter what happens next. Paul would have been very comfortable singing this hymn. He wrote in Romans 8:31, *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"* If God is with us, He will be for us, and if he is for us, He will be with us.

The middle portion of verse 2 of "Be With Me, Lord" cites three ifs, none of which are good or pleasant. In fact, they are rather calamitous. "If dangers threaten" might just as well read "when dangers threaten" because no one completes life never having been threatened with danger. Granted, because we lead peaceable lives we avoid much danger that others may face, but there is still plenty of danger to go around. In addition to physical danger, there is always the specter of spiritual danger.

"If storms of trials burst above my head" is the next troublesome situation mentioned in verse 2. While we often think and talk about our trials and tribulations, perhaps we perceive of them as occurring one at a time with peaceful intervals between. But for many, their trials are multitudinous; they present in much the same way as a sudden and severe thunderstorm. You look at the sky, startled at how dark and ominous it has become. Then, before you can get under cover, you are hit with wind, rain, and lightning. When storms of trials burst above my head....

Finally, "if lashing seas leap everywhere about me" suggests being overcome, engulfed, going under for the last time. But, remember the first part of this verse: "Be with me, Lord, and then, if dangers threaten, if storms of trials burst above my head, if lashing seas leap everywhere about me"... what then? "They cannot harm or make my heart afraid." Read Romans 8:37-39.

**Sermons:** (AM) Faith and a Blind Beggar  
 (PM) Jesus Christ—The Suffering Servant

**Reading:** (AM) Psalm 55  
 (PM) Psalm 56

**The Blog:** The blog will be updated during the week.