

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 836

March 6, 2011

Baptism — What is It?

Baptism is the step that puts us into Christ (Galatians 3:27), puts us into the body (I Corinthians 12:13), which is the church, and washes away our sins (Acts 22:16), thus saving us (I Peter 3:21). What is baptism— physically speaking? Simply put, it is a complete immersion or submerging under water. (Spiritually speaking, there is much more involved in baptism, but let us consider the physical act.) The American Heritage Dictionary (1992), third edition, never once uses the word “submerging,” “submersing,” or “immersion” in its definition of baptism. It does offer the Greek origins of the word though, and upon investigation of the original meaning, one sees that baptism is the specific act of complete immersion under water.

The word translated baptize(d) in the New Testament is from the Greek word, βαπτίζω (baptidzo). According to a Greek lexicon, this word means “to immerse” or “to submerge.” One definition is “to overwhelm.” In the context of what is being done, the water completely overwhelms (covers) the person being baptized. The following information clearly illustrates the true meaning of “baptize.” The following is included in my computer-based version of Strong’s Concordance:

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The clearest example that shows the meaning of “baptizo” is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be ‘dipped’ (bapto) into boiling water and then ‘baptised’ (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable, produces a permanent change. [some text omitted. —Marty] There must be a union with him, a real change, like the vegetable to the pickle! [Bible Study Magazine James Montgomery Boice May 1989.]

I have baptized those who let their hands or feet remain above the water. It was necessary to perform the act again. I cannot say I rebaptized them, for according to the true definition, they were never baptized the first time. They were not completely submerged under the water. Baptism is not a pouring, sprinkling, or partial submerging. It is a burial (Romans 6:4). A burial requires a complete covering.

The translators of the King James Version chose not to translate the original Greek word, βαπτίζω (baptidzo), as “immersion,” or some other true translation. Instead, they chose to anglicize the original word, thus making an English word similar in sound and form to the original Greek. That word was “baptize.” This was a compromise. It was true to the text, in that it was basically what the text literally said. At the same time, the term, not truly translated, was cloaked in confusion and not offensive to the false teaching of the day concerning baptism.

What the translators did was an injustice to the text and to those dependent upon their translation. Because of this action, many have been baptized in a way they thought was acceptable to the Lord, but was instead contrary to Him and the teachings of the Bible.

May we ever realize the grave responsibility we have in proclaiming the Gospel clearly and in its entirety— without omission or addition.

—Marty Edwards ❖

News

—Continue to remember **Jean Coffey, Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jimmy Terry, and Vicki McDaniel.**

—**Jean Coffey** has asked that we continue to remember her with prayer. She has two broken vertebrae in her back and is in extreme pain. She has also developed pneumonia.

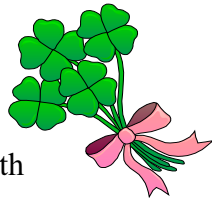
—**Alroy McDaniel**, father of Kerry McDaniel, has been diagnosed with advanced cancer and we have been asked to remember him in prayer.

—Tonight will be our first-Sunday singing.

—Today is the last Sunday we will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. until next November. Next Sunday evening our services will return to 6:00 p.m. since we are returning to Daylight Saving Time. Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour next week.

—It was 39 years ago today, March 6, 1972 that I was baptized in Glasgow, KY by Paul Smith. It's a day that I always remember each year. For any person who does obey the Lord in baptism, it is the most important day of your life.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



March 11 — David & Denessa Worth
March 17 — Ruby Edwards
March 27 — Mark Crabtree
March 30 — Mitch & Sandy Duncan

Sunday, February 27, 2011		
Classes	12	Mark 10:41-11:10
Preaching	21	March Forth
Contribution	\$360.00	
Evening	14	Daniel 7:1-28
Wednesday, March 2, 2011		
Classes	21	Numbers 7:48-89

Visitors— Feb 27 (AM) Lurline Mires (Rex, KY)

Bible Quiz

The Lord closed the mouth of what animal to protect Daniel?

Last Week's Answer— Fingers of a man's hand writing on the wall. (Daniel 5:5)

—Starting this week I am posting the bulletin on the Church's web site before Sunday morning services. This gives anyone listening to us remotely the opportunity follow along in the bulletin when that day's lesson is taken from it.

—God's Plan of Salvation—

1. Hear the Gospel (Romans 10:14)
2. Believe on the Lord and His Word (Mark 16:16; John 8:24)
3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)
4. Confess Christ (Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9)
5. Be baptized (immersed in water) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21)
6. Live a faithful, dedicated life (Revelation 2:10; II Peter 1:5-10)