

Munfordville Church of Christ

No 1101

March 6, 2016

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:

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.

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Sunday 9 AM & 6 PM — Wednesday 6 PM

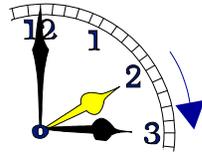
News

—Continue to remember **Sally Marshall, Jewell Watkins, Jean Coffey, Alice Thrasher, Steve Seaton and Shirley Parson.** Continue to remember **Terry Burd** who has cancer. He is the son of

Jean Coffey and brother of Mike Burd.

—Tonight will be our first-Sunday singing.

—Today is the last Sunday we will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. until 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 44 years ago today, March 6, 1972 that I was baptized in Glasgow, Kentucky by Paul Smith. It's a day I always remember each year. For any person who obeys the Lord in baptism, it is the most important day of one's life.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries



- March 11 — David & Denessa Worth
- March 17 — Ruby Edwards
- March 27 — Mark Crabtree
- March 28 — John Mark Thrasher
- March 30 — Mitch & Sandy Duncan

Sunday, February 28, 2016		
Classes	25	II Corinthians 10:7-13
Preaching	25	An Extra Day
Contribution	\$513.00	
Evening	20	Psalms 119:129-152
Wednesday, March 2, 2016		
Classes	20	Ezekiel 35:1-15

Visitors— Mar 2 (Wed) Steward & Sharon Franklin
(Hammonsville, KY)

Bible Quiz

The psalmist asked what to shine upon thy servant?

Last Week's Answer— Gold, yeah fine gold (Psalm 119:127)

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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❖

—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)