

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Oct. 28, 2012



Baptism, Works, and Salvation

by Trent Childers

Many in the religious world will affirm that baptism is important, but will deny that it is essential. Many will affirm that it is a command, but will deny it is absolutely necessary. Many will affirm that belief, repentance, and even confession are necessary, but will deny that baptism is so necessary. Is baptism connected to salvation?

It is in order to discuss the issue that many have with saying that baptism is essential to salvation. Many believe that saying it is so essential is equivalent to saying that one earns his salvation through works. Not all works mentioned in the Bible are meritorious. The Bible mentions different classes of works. Notice the following chart:

Works of the Law	Works of Merit	Works of Obedience
Rom. 3:20-31	Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 4:3-5	James 2
"shall no flesh be justified."	"Not of works, lest any man should boast."	"by works a man is justified, and not by faith only."

To read of works in the Bible and lump them all into one category is to err. The Bible is "God breathed" and inerrant (2 Tim. 3:16-17), but if there were only one category of works discussed in Scripture, passages would be at odds with one another. As recorded in Romans 3, Paul taught that one cannot be justified through works of the law of Moses. There were those who had affirmed, "Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved" (Acts 15:1), which is absolutely false. It was needful then for Paul to show that the law of Moses was...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for all ages & Pew Packers each Sunday at 12:30

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Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

...never intended to justify, which he did show. To say Paul was teaching against works altogether is to grievously err. Is salvation “not of works” (Eph. 2:8-9)? Yes. Is it true that “by works a man is justified” James 2:24)? Yes. Paul was discussing works of merit. Paul added, “lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:8-9). One cannot boast of salvation, as he is not the source of it, but rather Jesus Christ is. Does this rule out works altogether? If it did, then belief would be eliminated, as it is a work (John 6:28-29). Belief is something an individual has to decide to do. Paul elsewhere taught the necessity of obedience (2 The. 1:7-10). Paul was obviously not eliminating works (as even a casual reading of Scripture will easily show), but rather he was showing that one does not earn anything through his works, and even after he has performed them, he has nothing of which to boast, and Jesus Christ is still the source. James was discussing the necessity of works, of an obedient faith, as he wrote, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:24). An obedient faith is necessary to put a person in a position to be saved by Jesus Christ. So Paul was able to say of Abraham, “For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God” (Rom. 4:2), and James was able to say of Abraham, “Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar” (James 2:21)? and there be no contradiction, because different works are in view. Noteworthy is the fact that Paul describes baptism as follows, “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of **the operation of God** (Emp. T.C.), who hath raised him from the dead” (Col. 2:12). The sinner places himself in a position for God to operate on him and wash away his sins. Obviously then, to say no works are necessary in order for one to be saved is to blatantly ignore Biblical teaching.

How does the Bible relate baptism to salvation? Notice the consistent Biblical teaching in regard to baptism’s connection to salvation (These are not all of the passages regarding baptism):

Mark 16:16	baptized	saved
John 3:5	born of water and of the Spirit	enter into the kingdom of God
Acts 2:38	baptized	for the remission of sins
Acts 2:41; see v. 47	baptized	added
Acts 22:16	baptized	wash away thy sins
Rom. 6:3	baptized	into Jesus Christ; into His death
Rom. 6:4	baptism	into death; walk in newness of life
Eph. 5:26	with the washing of water by the word	sanctify and cleanse

Eph. 5:27	baptized	into one body
Eph. 5:28	baptized	into Christ
Eph. 5:29	baptism	risen with him through the faith of the operation of God
Eph. 5:30	by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;	he saved us
Eph. 5:31	baptism	doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

It is absolutely undeniable that baptism is connected with salvation, that it is essential to salvation. Does the water save? Well, did the water from the Jordan river cleanse Naaman of his leprosy? (2 Kings 5). The power of the Lord did, but Naaman would have walked away a leper had he not dipped in the Jordan as commanded. So it is, one must be immersed into water in order to have sins washed away by the blood of Christ.

Consider another Old Testament example. Joshua 6:2 records, “And the LORD said unto Joshua, See, **I have given into thine hand Jericho** (Emp. T.C.), and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.” God said he had “given,” but did they at that moment have the city? Were they commanded to do anything to obtain the city? Yes! Specific instructions were given (Jos. 6:3-5), and those instructions were performed (Jos. 6:6-20). **Then**, that is, when they obeyed God’s instructions, “**they took the city**” (Jos. 6:20). Is it still true that God gave them the city? Yes. Is

it true that they did not earn it by their works? Obviously, as performing those actions apart from God’s power would have never allowed them to take the city. So then this is a plain example of God’s giving a gift for which people had to perform works to accept.

Yes, it is “by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:24), but after one rises to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:3-4), it is “Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Eph. 2:9).

This Week’s Daily Bible Reading:

Sunday: Luke 10 — 11
Monday: Luke 12 — 13
Tuesday: Luke 14 — 16
Wednesday: Luke 17 — 18
Thursday: Luke 19 — 20
Friday: Luke 21 — 22
Saturday: Luke 23 — 24

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Tim Wilkes, II and family as he travels.
Nora Boling, Wiley & Betty Tuggle; Sara Norris;
Herbert & Helen Bowman; Sue Cobern

OpenDoor Ministry
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Tate Williams family, in the loss of Tate; also remember Sam Pace (driver of car Tate was in), Kayleigh Dunn (Tate's girlfriend), Jodie & Holly Belknap (two girls that hit Sam's car), and many friends. **Herman King**, battling cancer, Billy met this man's wife and son during Saturday's door-knocking. **Easley family**, car accident--Doris, Molly's grandmother, is going to be put in some form of long-term rehab. **Carla Carlson** and her battle with cancer. **Gema Winchester** has stomach cancer, currently on a rest from treatments. **Matthew Canada**, young boy who has down syndrome and acute lymphoblastic leukemia. **Wes**, brother of Deb Peeler, cancer; **Mickey Knockart Lauren Jackson;** **Paul Perkins; Curtis A. Cates; Frederick Bland;** **Eli Williams; Ray Maples; Wayne Collinsworth;** **Andrew Hagewood; Janie Brister; Chuck Tharp;** **Renee Loya; Aubree Harris; Virginia Mayfield;** **Peyton Harville; Bob Spurlin; David Bragg.**

October Birthdays

10/3 Mischel Jackson
10/5 Lynn Wilkes
10/15 Georgia Bayless
10/16 Jared Brown
10/16 Titus Wilkes
10/17 Abby Haynes
10/20 Sarah Norris
10/31 Billy Bland

Get Involved!

Daily Bible Reading Calendar 2012
Let's continue to read and study together!!

Coldwater Trunk R Treat
Oct. 31, 5:30 PM; Bring finger foods

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- Nov. 4

Bible Bowl -- Nov. 10 -- 10:30 AM
Genesis 1-3, Study Hard!

Bonfire at the Jackson's -- Nov. 10

Providence Place Devo -- Nov. 11 -- 2 PM

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, October 28

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jerry Davis
Announcements	Jim Jackson
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Ron Johnson
Assist	Seth Daniel
	Jeremy Moore
Opening Prayer	Billy Bland
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Jared Brown

Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Jason Bayless
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jeffrey Ferrell
	Ron Johnson
Closing Prayer	Wiley Tuggle

Wednesday, October 31

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	T B A
Prayer	Joe Owen