

2001 Proclaimer

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, .. to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord!" - Isa. 61:1-2

A teaching and exhortation medium by members of the Carmichael Church of Christ, meeting at 6044 Sutter Ave. Carmichael, CA 95608

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BAPTISM DEFINED

By Gordon Wilson

Our word "baptism" is not an English word in actuality, but is simply transliterated from the Greek, baptisma. The verb "baptize" is the Greek word baptidzo. Not being an English word, "baptism" has no meaning of its own, but its meaning is determined from the Greek lexicons. What an unabridged dictionary is to the English language, the lexicon is to the Greek language.

A lexical study of baptisma and baptidzo reveals that the words were used in a variety of connections. They were used of the sinking of a ship, the dying of any garment or cloth, the immersion of any article. Never were they used of the sprinkling of a small amount of water on a person or object; nor of pouring, except when pouring resulted in the complete covering up of the object.

Thus, the baptism of the Israelites in the cloud and the sea (**1 Cor. 10:2**) describes a condition in which the waters of the Red Sea were raised on either side, and the cloud hovered above them; they were completely submerged in waters. The baptism of John was an immersion in water, as indicated by the fact that he selected a place where there was "much water" (**John 3:23**); and those baptized by him came up out of the water (**Matt. 3:16**). The baptism of the Holy Spirit was so called, not because the Spirit was poured out on the apostles, but because they were completely submerged in Him -- overwhelmed, "clothed with power" (**Luke 24:49**). The figurative use of "baptism" by Jesus when He spoke of His sufferings (**Luke 12:50**) meant that He was to be immersed in the experiences of the cross.

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From all this it follows that the baptism in water connected with the New Covenant is immersion in water and emersion from it. It is not a case of baptism by immersion, as opposed to sprinkling or pouring; rather, the very word "baptism" means immersion. That is all it ever meant. We have an example of this in Acts 8, in the case of the eunuch from Ethiopia who was baptized by Philip. They "both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him." Then "they came up out of the water." I do not see how anyone can argue with a demonstration!

No wonder then that the Scriptures describe baptism as a burial and resurrection (Rom.6:3-5; Col. 2:12). It is said to be "like" (a picture of) the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. And undoubtedly this explains why God chose baptism for us instead of sprinkling. Under the law of Moses some things were dedicated by the sprinkling of blood mixed with other elements. But it is fitting that our initiation as Christians take place by our carrying out a likeness of the death, burial, and resurrection of Him by whose blood we are washed.

--Gordon Wilson

PROVE IT!

Occasionally someone pulls this time-worn bromide of the devil: "*You can prove anything by the Bible.*" He never notices the import of the saying. Usually he who says it cannot prove anything by the Bible except he is woefully ignorant of it.

Would you like to have it said around that people can "prove just anything by

you?" No? Even so, it is an insult to the Lord and a slap in the face of God to say, "You can prove anything by the Bible."

Look closely. Those who make the statement have not proved by the Bible that their denominations are right, or that their names are even found in the Scriptures. They have never proved that a man is justified by faith alone, to the exclusion of love for God, repentance from sins, and obedience to the gospel of Christ. They contend that one can be saved out of the church as well as in it; but the Bible, a book which they say you can prove anything by, does not prove it. Why have not these things been proved?

Here are some things you can prove by the Bible. Baptism is essential to salvation from sin. (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). Baptism is not sprinkling or pouring, but immersion. (Rom. 6:3,4).

It is just as simple to prove by the Bible that Christians are to partake of the Lord's Supper upon the first day of the week (Acts 20:7), and that the churches that Paul dealt with while on earth were "churches of Christ." (Rom. 16:16). Or, one has no difficulty in proving by the Bible that a child of God can fall from grace, when he reads Gal. 5:4.

Only that which is true and that which is right can be proved by the Bible. -

---From The DeQueen Blvd. Evangelist.

PLEASE REMEMBER:

There are still many who are ailing, or out of town, or sorrowed. Please pray for them and serve their needs as you have opportunity.

WHO CONTROLS YOUR LIFE?

Imagine for a moment that your life is represented by a circle. Inside that circle, in the very center, is a throne. The ruling influence in your life, by your own choice, is sitting on that throne. Who is sitting on the throne of your heart?

Some put their enemies on the throne of their hearts. These people allow their enemies to consume their lives. Hate for their enemies is controlling their thoughts, their actions, and their attitudes.

Some put their friends or loved ones on the throne of their hearts. Many allow their friends or loved ones to dictate what they wear, what they say, what they do, even what they believe about God. Friends can be a blessing or they can be a curse. Amnon had a friend, but he was the wrong kind of friend (read **2 Sam 13**). The Scriptures warn: "Do not be deceived: 'Evil company corrupts good habits'" (**1 Cor 15:33**).

Most put self on the throne of their hearts. "What's in it for me?" is the determining factor in the lives of those who are dominated by self. If we will stop and think, however, the most miserable person and the most selfish person are one and the same!

We should put Christ on the throne of our hearts. If we would experience an abundant life now (**John 10:10**) and eternal life in heaven (**Rom 6:23**), we must allow Christ to rule and control our lives! Christ is Lord (**Acts 2:36**). The word "Lord" means master, owner; one who has

power or authority over another. Is He your Lord?

Some may argue, "How can life be abundant if I have to live under the control of someone else?!?" The beautiful thing about the Lordship of Jesus Christ is that He is a loving Lord who wants the best for us. He knows what we do not – He sees what we cannot. And so, to have the greater blessings which are spiritual in nature, we must trust Him and submit to His Lordship. For Jesus to be our Lord, we must obey Him. The Lord instructs us to believe in Him (**John 8:24**), repent of our sins (**Luke 13:3**), be baptized for the remission of our sins (**Acts 2:38**), and continue to obey Him in all things (**Matt 7:21**).

Jesus has said, "*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven*" (**Matt 7:21**). He has also asked, "*But why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?*" (**Luke 6:46**).

In our individual lives, if Jesus is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all.

Each of us will serve someone. Each of us will put someone on the throne of our hearts. It may be our enemies, our friends or loved ones, our selves, Christ, or some other. We're going to serve someone!

Whom do you serve? Who is your lord?

--David A. Sargent & Glenn Sargent

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Everyone has a right to be stupid.
Some just abuse the privilege.

The Lonely Frog

by John Gaines

A lonely frog telephoned the Psychic Hotline and asked what his future holds. His friend the toad, a would-be psychic advisor tells him, "I see you meeting a beautiful young girl who will want to know everything about you."

The frog is thrilled, "This is great!" "Will I meet her at a party?" he croaks.

"No," says the toad-psychic, "in biology class."

The simple moral to this story is that things are not always what they seem. Things that may seem to be great and wonderful initially often have a way of turning out to be considerably less than what we expected. Sometimes the result is disappointment. Sometimes it is danger. In the frog's case, it turned out to be dissection.

The allure of the world is often like that for immature Christians. Satan's basic temptation techniques involve our lack of self-control over our wants – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life to use the terminology of I John 2:16.

Eve fell for the devil's deception when she ate the forbidden fruit in Eden. It looked good. It would taste good. It would make her wise. So she thought! Unfortunately, what had appeared so attractive and desirable turned out to be the greatest mistake any human being ever made.

Things are not always what they seem! May we grow in our faith and maturity to have the discernment to see our life choices for what they really are (Hebrews 5:14).

Instead of taking a nap this afternoon how about running the following references and ponder their contents:

- Genesis 3:6
- Proverbs 6:12-15
- Proverbs 9:17
- Mark 13:5
- John 8:44-45
- Romans 16:18
- II Corinthians 2:10-11
- II Corinthians 4:1-4
- II Corinthians 11:2-4,13-15,19-20
- Ephesians 4:11-14
- Ephesians 6:11
- II Thessalonians 2:8-12
- ITimothy 2:14
- Hebrews 3:13
- II Peter 2:18-19
- Revelation 12:9

QUESTIONS TO PONDER

1. I John 2:16 lists the three avenues Satan uses to make sin appear appealing. These same avenues are used by advertisers to make their products appealing. Use a magazine and clip ads that illustrate each of the three avenues of appeal.
2. What avenues did Satan use to tempt Eve?
3. Identify the avenues Satan used to tempt Jesus? Was there an avenue for temptation that we face that Jesus did not face (Hebrews 4:15)?
4. How can we defeat the deceptions of Satan?
5. Why is sin so appealing?

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