

BAPTISM & ACTS 2:38

Michael Pickford

Many teach that baptism isn't necessary for salvation. When faced with Acts 2:38, they define the Greek word *eis* (translated "For" in our English Bibles) to mean "Because of" instead of "In order to." This makes the verse teach that one is to be baptized in order to show that his sins are already forgiven.

But compare verse 38 with Acts 22:16, which states "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." This verse clarifies the fact that baptism washes away one's sins. One cannot be saved until his sins are gone because sin separates one from God (Isaiah 59:1-2),

thus causing spiritual death (Romans 6:23). Baptism is essential for salvation because it is at the point of baptism that Christ's blood removes the sin which separates. This is why both Jesus and Peter tell us that baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21; Mark 16:16).

Only those who are in Christ will receive salvation. "Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory" (2 Timothy 2:10). Baptism puts one into Christ where salvation is. "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27). Yes, Baptism saves! 🔍

Welcome to our services and thank you for visiting. If you have any questions about our beliefs or practices, please don't hesitate to ask.

God has not only commanded us to worship Him, but has also told us how, in His word. **The elements of our services, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:**

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7



- www.defendthegospel.com
- Weekly Article: Rutherford Reader
- 3rd Sunday Singing Practice: 5 pm
- 4th Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- Radio program on wgns. 15 minute sermon every Sunday morning from 10:45 - 11:00.
- 5th Sunday Men's Training Class, 3:30 pm. Prayer Service, 6 pm
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday evenings following services.

COME WORSHIP WITH US!

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00

EVERYONE WELCOME!



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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JESUS: THE WAY, THE TRUTH, THE LIFE!

Michael Pickford

We know of many famous statements from several different famous and influential men and women. But consider the famous statement of our Lord when He said "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Jesus saves us from ...

Detours. Jesus is "The way." There is no other way to God the Father. The wisdom of men will not bring us to God (1 Corinthians 1:18-19); riches will not save us, for they do not profit in the day of wrath (Proverbs 11:4); the Law of Moses does not save (Galatians 2:21); and ancestral religion will not deliver us (Galatians 1:13-14). Yet many are detoured thinking their own way is better than God's (Proverbs 14:15); or that their financial success will pave their way to heaven; or that appealing to the Old Testament is the way to serve God; or that they can ride into heaven on the coat-tail of their parents' righteousness. Don't be detoured; Christ is the way!

Deceptions. Jesus is also "The truth." It's wonderful to know that we have a Savior we can trust. When He promises to be with us till the end, we can trust Him (Matthew 28:20). When He promises strength during times of

weakness and comfort during times of heartache, we can trust Him. When He promises we will be provided for, we can trust Him (Matthew 6:25-34). When He promises a crown of life if we're faithful till the end, we can trust Him (Revelation 2:10). Further, it is to His doctrine we must go for the truth about God's will for our lives (2 John 9). Many "Religious leaders" of our day say baptism isn't necessary for salvation; but Jesus said "he who believes and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Who's speaking the truth? Jesus; for He is truth! If we'll but believe and follow Him regardless of what men say and teach, we will not be deceived.

Death. Jesus is also "The life." If we believe and obey Him, though we die physically, we shall live forever in the glories of heaven (John 11:25-26). The Bible speaks of two deaths. The first death is when the spirit separates from the body (James 2:26). The second death is when the spirit is eternally separated from God in hell (Romans 6:23). Jesus is the Author of eternal life to all who obey Him (Hebrews 5:8-9). If you'll trust and obey Him you will be saved from the second death and welcomed into your eternal life. 🔍

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DRUG-FREE Michael Pickford

I am concerned about the prevalence of drugs in our country. Especially illegal drugs. It's easy to ascertain from the Bible how the use of drugs can be sinful. Certainly, illegal drugs are sinful just in the fact that using them is illegal. The Bible teaches us to obey the laws of the land (Romans 13:1-2). But they are also addictive (1 Cor 6:12), destructive to the body (1 Corinthians 6:20), and detrimental to the clarity of the mind; we must remain clear minded and sober as God's children (1 Thessalonians 5:6). By the way, alcohol is a dangerous drug specifically condemned in God's word (1 Corinthians 6:9-11).

Often overlooked is the abuse of legal drugs. I've known many who wouldn't dare take illegal drugs yet they allow themselves to become addicted to legal drugs. Legal drugs are needed and lawful when used properly; but we must not abuse them! And incidentally, taking someone else's prescription drugs is illegal.

So, with the prevalence of drugs in our society and peer pressure so abundant, how do we overcome the problem, especially among our young? By applying God's principles. First, pray for strength to overcome the temptation to do drugs (Philippians 4:6-7). Second, avoid situations which are conducive to being introduced to drugs (Matthew 6:13). Third, nourish your will to do God's will and be pleasing to Him. Fourth, realize the destructive nature of drugs. They can destroy your family, your health, and your spiritual security. Parents, talk to your children about the dangers and sinfulness of drugs (Ephesians 6:1-4). Don't let improper and illegal drug use deceive you (Hebrews 3:12-13).

A CLEAN RECORD Michael Pickford

It's not a good thing to have a record, is it? Usually when we speak of someone having a record we mean that they have committed some sort of crime. Perhaps it's on their permanent record. This can be very detrimental to entering a college, getting a job, and a number of other things. If you don't want a record, obey the law (Romans 13:1-3).

But what about a spiritual record? The fact is, God is keeping a record of your life and mine. On the last day, this record will be opened, the record of my life, and compared with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. How will you do when yours is compared? *"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books"* (Revelation 20:12).

This record will include not only those things others know about in this life, but also those things which we were able to keep from the eyes of men. *"In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel"* (Romans 2:16) (see also 1 Timothy 5:24-25).

It's bad to have a record at the police station, but how much worse to have a bad record recorded in heaven! It's sometimes possible to have your record cleared in this life; but better still, Christ has made it possible to clear our spiritual record as well (1 Corinthians 6:9-11). We do so by obedience to the Gospel (Hebrews 5:8-9).

Make sure you're record is clean (Acts 22:16; 1 John 1:9).

SERMON NOTES

Search the scriptures daily to see if these things are so.

STUDY
DAILY!
Acts
17:11

Hopelessly Devoted

Introduction:

I. _____

II. _____

III. _____

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Jason Hubbard
- Bible Reading by.....Frank Anderson
Reading: 2 Chronicles 27:1-6
- Song Leader.....Ben Reagh
- Opening Prayer.....Kenny Johnson
- Lord's Table:
Lead.....Ben Green
Serve.....Kenny Todd
Serve.....Chris Meade
- Closing Prayer.....Robert Johnson

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Lord's Table.....Ben Green

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Robert Johnson
- Invitation.....Michael Pickford

*Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!*

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!