

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

February 4, 2024

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BAPTISM AND SALVATION

By Glen Elliott, Greenbrier CoC

There are a number of things God has placed between us and salvation. Is baptism one of those things? Let's see what the Bible says about the matter.

When Jesus issued the Great Commission, He said, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mk 16:15-16). Did Jesus place baptism before or after salvation? Baptism, along with belief, comes before salvation.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter's listeners interrupted his sermon with a question. They asked, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Peter answers and says, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (vs. 38). Did the inspired apostle place baptism before or after forgiveness of sins? Baptism, along with repentance, comes before forgiveness of sins.

Baptism is further described by the apostle Paul in the sixth chapter of his letter to the Romans where he asks, "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Rom. 6:3-4). Does the newness of life precede or follow baptism into Christ? Newness of life follows baptism.

Finally, in Galatians 3:27, Paul writes, "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ". If they were baptized into Christ, where were they before their baptism? They must have been outside of Christ. So, if baptism (preceded by faith and repentance) brings us into Christ, can we be saved without it? Baptism is essential to our salvation.

**Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations,
I will be exalted in the earth! Psa. 46:10**

Pray for the sick: You may not know some of them but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up to Him!

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Sandi Holt, Pat Tucker, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ruth Banks, Michelle Tucker
On-going personal Bible studies
World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Guyana, Cameroon
Cipolla family
"Celebrate Recovery"
AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier Dale and Maddy
Latin American Missions
Debbie Revel (Cassie's mother, surgery)
Coleman family as they care for Kenny's parents
Sue Banks (Jean's niece)
Brenda Pepper; continued prayers; making progress
Jenny Womersley, broken wrist
Julia's Dad, Haines; surgery went well. Also pray for Julia's cousin's granddaughter, Ciara-aged 14.
Charles Fooks (Jean's brother)
Noah Donahoe's niece, Lottie; doing better, stable.
Dave (Shane's friend); cancer
Sue Brook's son Nathan, injured at work.

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at:
www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study	7:00 p.m.
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Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's)	7:15 a.m.
Bible Study at building	6:30 p.m.
Friday ladies' Paul study	10:30 a.m.

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Apostle Paul study Fridays at Cathy's, coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study at 7:00 pm .

SECRET SISTER REVEAL LUNCHEON has been re-scheduled for Feb.17th at 11:30 am at Jojo's Rest., Salisbury. RSVP to Ginger.

DO YOU HEAR THE ANGELS SINGING? (Lk 15:7)
Diane's granddaughters, Kaylen and Claire, were baptized yesterday in Kentucky by their father.

SUPER BOWL PARTY Feb. 11 at Cathy's.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; 2/4-Christian; 2/11-Vinny
Prayer; 2/4-Lanny; 2/11-Philip
Table; 2/4-Danny; 2/11-Christian
Song Leader; 2/4-David; 2/11-Daniel
Announcements/Closing prayer; 2/4 and 2/11
Chad

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).