



ENCOUNTERING JESUS

Friday 7:30 PM: Beholding His Glory

Saturday 7:30 PM: The King & the Cross

Sunday 9:00 AM: Starting Over

10:00 AM: Believing in Jesus

6:00 PM: He Is Risen



ENCOUNTER JESUS YOURSELF

SEPTEMBER 26-28, 2014

SPEAKER: BEN HALL



<http://martinezchurchofchrist.com>

4516 Oakley Pirkle Road • Martinez, GA 30907

“HI THERE! GLAD TO MEET YOU!”



WELCOME to a special series of Bible studies with the MARTINEZ CHURCH OF CHRIST.

We are so glad you came to worship God and study His word with us!

This booklet contains information about who we are, why we are here, and what you can expect during your visit (see the article on the next page). Also, there are lesson notes pages

which will allow you to follow along with the Bible studies and take notes. Take this booklet home for further study.

We are privileged to have brother Ben Hall as our guest speaker this week. If you have any questions about the lessons feel free to ask. Brother Hall or someone here will be glad to seek to answer any of your questions.

Our local evangelist is Shannon Shaffer. He is available to serve you. If you have any questions about the church here, our teaching or practice please contact him by mail, phone or E-mail. Please note the listing of our regular schedule of services printed below for your benefit. You have an open invitation to visit with us anytime you desire.

Thanks for coming to worship God and study His word with us! This is a place for worship and Bible study “Where You’re Always Welcome!”

Regular Schedule of Services:

Sunday:

Bible classes for all ages 9:00 AM

Worship 10:00 AM

6:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible classes for all ages 7:00 PM



Hi, I’m Shannon Shaffer,

Let me welcome each and every one of you to our special series of Bible studies here at the Martinez church of Christ. This is going to be a great week of worship and Bible study as we look into the word of God.

I’m so glad to have you all here and I would like to meet you personally. Please, come shake my hand and tell me your name. I hope you will even get to meet the rest of my family; my beautiful wife Dana and our wonderful children, Emily (21), Sarah (19), Scott (18) and Seth (16).

If you would like to know more about the church here, what the Bible says you need to do in order to be saved in Christ or, if I could assist you in a confidential Biblical counseling setting I would be glad for you to call on me. You can email me at

shafferlifeline@gmail.com or call me at 615-289-1721.

Thanks again for visiting with the Martinez church of Christ we hope we have made you feel that this really is a place “Where You’re Always Welcome!”

In His Service and Yours,

What To Expect During Your Visit

A WARM WELCOME

First of all, you can expect a courteous and sincere welcome by our members. There are no “special” pews for anyone, so you may sit wherever you like. Several people will probably come and introduce themselves to you. All visitors are greeted with equal respect and kindness.

SIMPLE, SINCERE WORSHIP



You will notice that our worship is quite simple. This is because our pattern comes directly from the worship of the first century Christians as recorded in the New Testament. There will be no attempts to entertain or spice up our worship assembly.

Please join us in...

SINGING praises to God;

(Ephesians 5:19; Col. 3:16)

PRAYING to our heavenly Father;

(Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 2:1-8)

STUDYING the Bible;

(2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:10-11)

If you are with us on Sunday, the Lord’s day, you will observe these other acts of worship...

THE LORD’S SUPPER served;

(1 Corinthians 11:23-32)

A COLLECTION*

(1 Corinthians 16:2)

(*As our guest you will not be asked or expected to give.)



ORDERLY & UNDERSTANDABLE SERVICE

You will not be confused by many speaking or praying at the same time. All aspects of the service will be conducted in plain, understandable English. Various men will take part in leading the worship and none will speak in languages which cannot be understood or in large theological terms. An orderly service of worship and Bible study will be maintained at all times (1 Corinthians 14:33). The audience, or individuals from it, will not be embarrassed or singled out for any sort of demonstration or testimony. You may quietly observe and study what you see and hear (1 Corinthians 14:40).

THE BIBLE - OUR GUIDE

If you bring a Bible, or use one provided, you will have our only book of religious authority. We have no creed, manual or catechism which is appealed to as “authority” in religious matters. Repeated references will be made to the Bible in all sermons and classes. We encourage you to check the references to see that they are correct (Acts 17:11). Please, never take the word of others just because they profess to know what the Bible says. Check it out for yourself.



SALVATION IN CHRIST

You will hear obedience to the will of Christ emphasized as necessary for salvation. One may enter a true relationship with Christ by obedience to God’s conditions of salvation. Those conditions can be outlined in five steps. They are: Faith in Christ, as taught in the gospel (Romans 10:17); Repentance of one’s past life with a determination to change (2 Peter 3:9); Confession of faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Baptism for the remission of sins (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38); and Faithfulness unto Christ till death (Revelation 2:10).

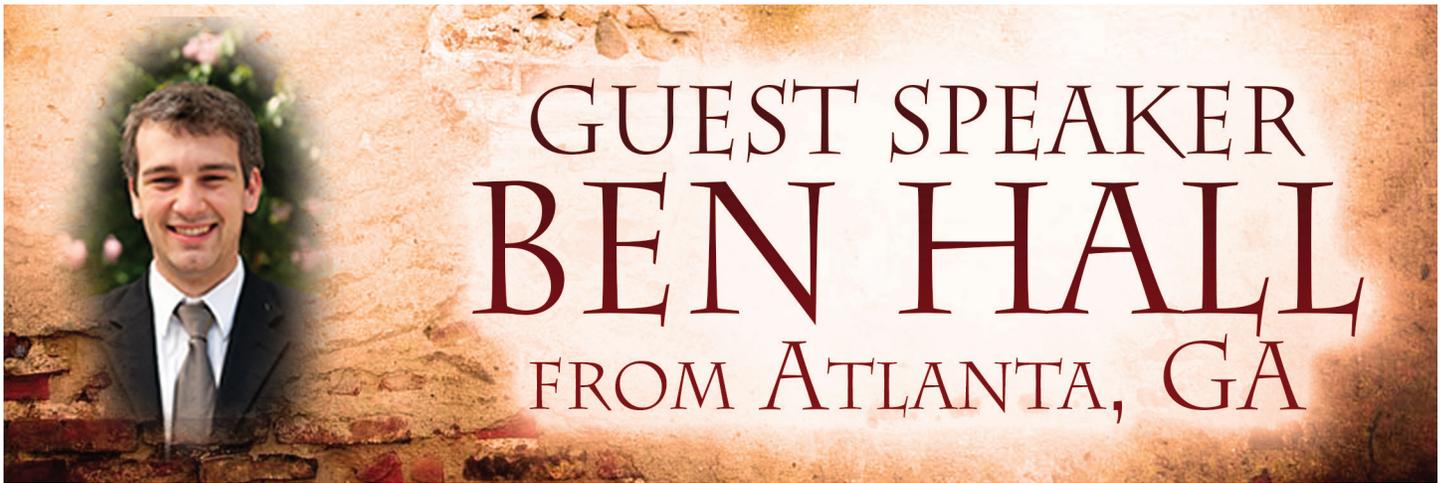


AN OPEN INVITATION

Our door is always open to you. You are always welcome to worship and study with us. Bring a friend and your Bible to “search the scriptures” with us. We would like to get to know you and perhaps we could help each other get to heaven. This is, as we like to say, a place “where you’re always welcome!”

May we all strive to “grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18). 





We are so glad to have Ben Hall with us for our special series this weekend. We know he has prepared his lessons to be an encouragement to us all and is always seeking to preach the gospel in grace and truth.

Ben is originally from Laceys Spring, Alabama. In 2006 he went to school in Birmingham where he studied at the University of Alabama and received a BA in International Studies. While in Birmingham he and Emily Ferencze were engaged and they were wed on October 8, 2010.

He had his first gospel meeting in 2010 and he also started working as an evangelist with the Embry Hills church in Atlanta, GA where he is now. In 2011 Ben made a trip to Africa.

Look Ben up on Facebook and hear some of his other sermons at <http://embryhills.com/>.





LifeLine

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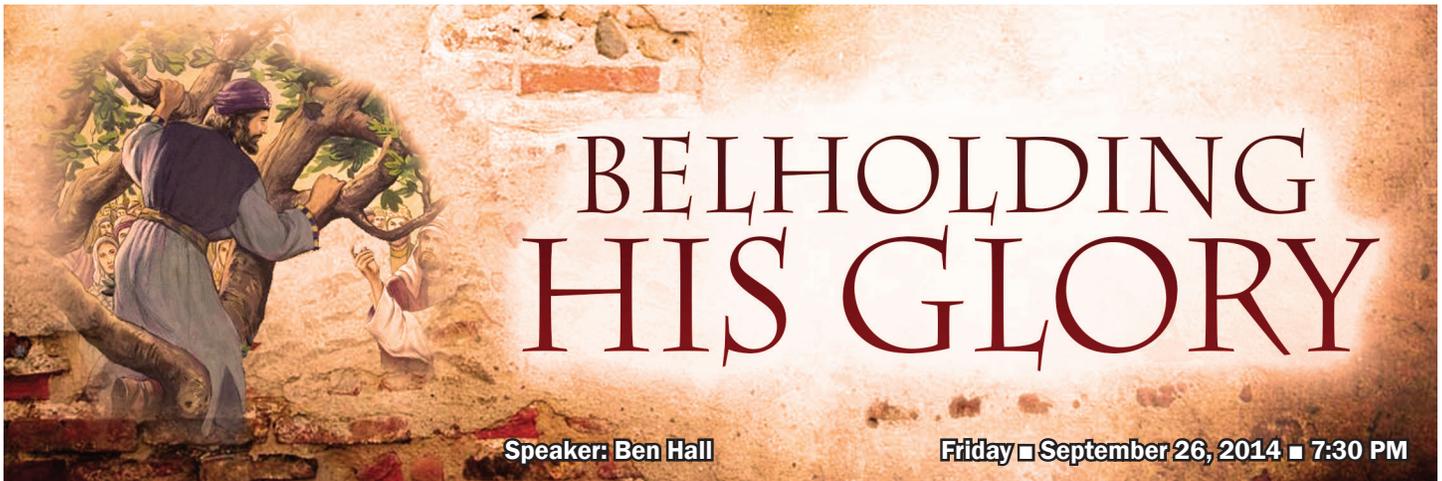
READ



WATCH



LISTEN



I. What is God like?

II. The Clash in God's Character

III. The Grace of God

IV. The Truth of God

V. Our Need for Grace & Truth

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, ‘This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
(John 1:14-17 ESV)



I. Why did Jesus come to Earth?

II. Christ, the Son of God

III. Baptism & Temptation: The Coronation of Jesus

IV. Ministry: The Authority of the King

VI. The King's Call

*“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee,
proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying,
‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand;
repent and believe in the gospel.’”*

(Mark 1:14-15 ESV)



I. What will Jesus and Christianity mean for my life?

II. Nicodemus & the New Birth

III. Samaritan Woman & the Living Water

IV. Life in the Spirit of Christ

“Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

This man came to Jesus by night and said to him,

*‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God,
for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.’*

*Jesus answered him, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again
he cannot see the kingdom of God.’*

Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can a man be born when he is old?

Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?’

*Jesus answered, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.’”*

(John 3:1-6 ESV)



I. Do you believe in Jesus?

II. Doubt in the Storms

III. The Power & Love of Jesus

IV. The Tragedy of Disbelief

V. The Need for Faith

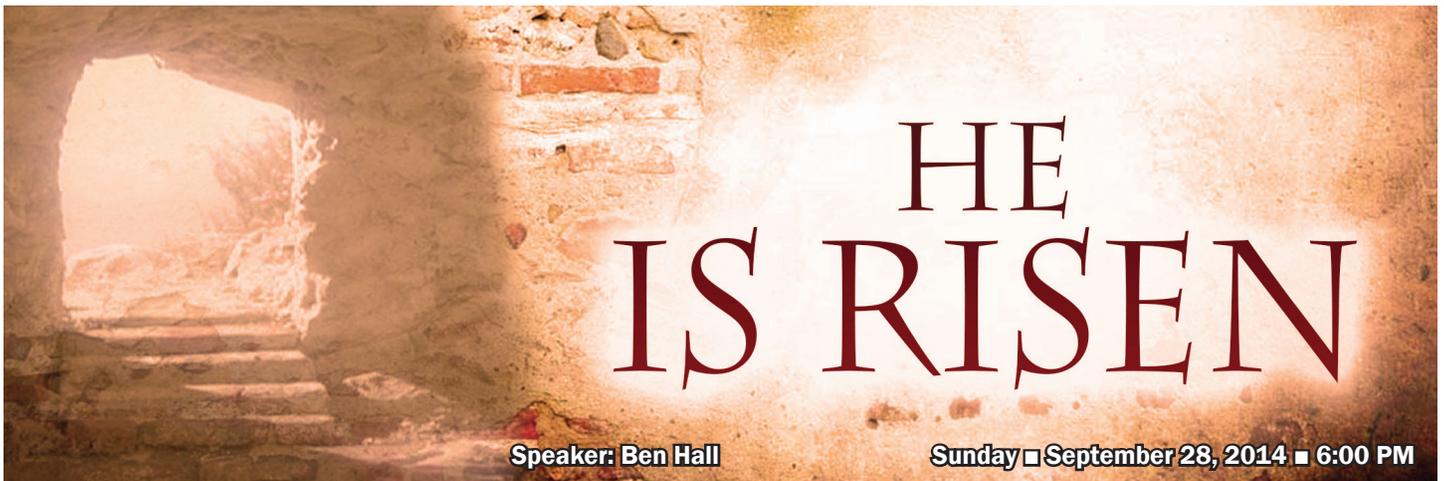
*“And when he got into the boat, his disciples followed him.
And behold, there arose a great storm on the sea,
so that the boat was being swamped by the waves;
but he was asleep.*

*And they went and woke him, saying,
‘Save us, Lord; we are perishing.’*

*And he said to them, ‘**Why are you afraid, O you of little faith?**’
Then he rose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.*

*And the men marveled, saying,
‘What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?’”*

(Matthew 8:23-27 ESV)



I. Why should I be a Christian?

II. Evidences for the Resurrection

III. Resurrection Encounters

IV. The Meaning of the Resurrection

“What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?

By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

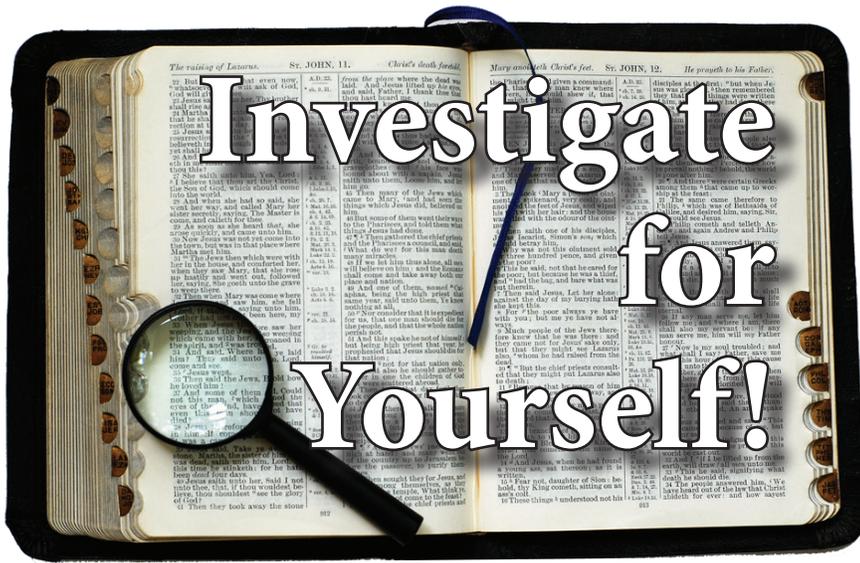
For one who has died has been set free from sin.”

(Romans 6:1-7 ESV)

Bible Classes for ALL!

- Ages 1 through High School
- Adults study through Bible books & various topics.
- Curriculum designed for students to learn and grow spiritually.
- Lesson plans targeted to meet the needs of the students.
- Teachers work to develop material for each class.





Investigate for Yourself!

INVESTIGATE THE BIBLE:

For centuries critics have attacked the Bible with a desire to destroy its credibility and popularity, only to see people of every age recognize it to be the inspired word of God. Time after time skeptics have been silenced as the Bible has been proven to be the infallible word of God.

While many people believe the Bible is God's word, few really understand it. The problem is not that the book is too complex but that most people have not studied it carefully and thoroughly. The Bible is a revelation, not a mystery. God's will has been revealed in its pages "to all nations for the obedience of faith" (Romans 16:25-26). We can and must understand the Bible if we are to be pleasing to God.

We cannot rely on others for our Bible knowledge. Countless people have been led astray by the creeds and traditions of men (Matthew 15:9), as they failed to realize God has already revealed everything we need to know (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3; Jude 1:3). We must search for answers ourselves by diligent study of God's word (see Acts 17:11).

Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn 8:32). Take the time to . . .

Investigate for Yourself!

INVESTIGATE GOD'S DESIGN:

For many people today choosing a church is a little like choosing a flavor at a corner ice cream shop. You just take the one that looks best to you! While joining the church of your choice may be popular and easy it is not God's desire for his followers. We need to learn what God expects of us so we can serve him in the church of HIS choice!

The Bible has a lot to say about the church, the body of saved of those who have been saved. Jesus said He would build it (Matthew 16:18). He paid a great price to accomplish this as He purchased the church with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Christ now rules as head over this one church, which is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:4). Since the church is simply a collection of people men are added to it as they are saved (Acts 2:47).

Thorough study of the Bible will tell us much more about the church, but we can summarize by saying the one church that Jesus built will wear His name, preach His word, and work and worship according to His plan. We must be willing to search for the truth to properly identify the Lord's will for His church. As we search for the Lord's way, we should remember that, "... the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it" (Matthew 7:14). To find the right way you must . . .

Investigate for Yourself!

INVESTIGATE

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST:

We would like to introduce you to the Martinez church of Christ. Take a close look. We are simply a "church of Christ" (Romans 16:16), that is, a local body of Christians who desire to serve God acceptably.

We are not a part of any denomination or diocese, but we are an independent congregation answerable only to our Head, Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:22-23). We reject all the creeds and doctrines of men as we seek to obey God's word exclusively. The Bible is our only standard of authority (Gal. 1:6-10).

We desire unity in religion, but we recognize that such unity must be based on the truth of God's word (John 17:14-23), not on compromise with sin (2 Cor. 6:14 — 7:1). Rather than overlook religious differences, we seek to teach others about God and His will.

Our purpose is not to convince anyone that our way is right, but to convince all that GOD'S WAY IS RIGHT (Matthew 7:21-23)!

As you study the Bible and learn about the Lord's church, we encourage you to look for a church that is sincerely trying to glorify God by totally submitting to His will. You are welcome at all our assemblies, as we want you to . . .

Investigate for Yourself!



Ask.



Seek.



Knock.

(Matthew 7:7)

Why Faith?



BY MARK J. ELLIOTT

“Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he exist , and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6, NIV).

Jehovah God has two books; his World and his Word (The Bible).

God’s World demonstrates that he does exist. “He left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness” (Acts 14:17). “The invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even is eternal power and Godhead” (Romans 1:20).

God’s Word reveals his love and concern for mankind. “He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust” (Matthew 5:45). “He careth for you” (1 Peter 5:7). “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Faith is not blind but, being rationally based upon the evidence in God’s two books, “faith is the substance (or assur-

ance) of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Hebrews 11:1). Therefore, look “unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right had of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:2).

Peter confessed to Jesus, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered, ‘...upon this rock I will build my church.” (Matthew 16:16-18)

Now, “God is spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). The invisible part of me must accept the invisible God, and that he sent his Son to die for my sins. This takes faith! Rational faith to be sure; but still faith; one of the most basic demonstrative elements of the human experience.

Because faith comes from the heart. “Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith” (Hebrews 10:22). “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good” (Luke 6:45); “for as he thinketh in his heart, so is he (Proverbs 23:7).

“This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith! Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that

believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4-5) Believe in “the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life” (1 John 5:13).

FAITH IS...

IN GOD

Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrews 11:6; NIV)

IN THE SON OF GOD

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16)

FAITH IS LINKED TO...

BAPTISM

“Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus; for as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Galatians 3:26-27)

OTHER WORKS

“As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead.” (James 3:26)

THE BIBLE

“Faith cometh by hearing . . . the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17)

Why Baptism?

BY MARK J. ELLIOTT

When you submit to Bible baptism you are “baptized into Jesus Christ” (Romans 6:3); you are “baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13); and “as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).

Why does the Bible show no other possible way to get “into Christ”?

For example: I can not be good enough to get into Christ. Cornelius was a good man. He was “a devout man” who “feared God” and “gave much alms (charity) to the people.” And he “prayed to God always” (Acts 10:2). How good a man he was! God heard his prayers and saw his good works (Acts 10:4). Then an angel told Cornelius to send for Peter who “shall tell thee what thou must do” (Acts 10:6; NKJV); “who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved” (Acts 11:14). He did as he was told. Peter came. And then, after telling them the good news about Jesus Christ, Peter “commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48).

But why baptism? Could not the all wise God of heaven and earth provide another way? or at least an alternative? Now that is just the point! Jehovah God is all wise! Therefore we must accept by faith, that he knows what is best.

Why baptism? God has provided a vivid illustration to answer the question. “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into his death” (Romans 6:3-4). Closing our eyes and stopping our breathing, we are plunged into the watery grave of baptism. “Our old man is crucified with (Christ) that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin” (Romans 6:9).

But, time spent in the watery grave of baptism is only momentary. “We are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

So, as baptism is a fitting memorial to the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, it is also a portrayal of the death, burial and resurrection of the human soul. “For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection” (Romans 6:5).

“Death is swallowed up in victory!

O death, where is thy sting?

O grave, where is thy victory?”

(1 Corinthians 15:54-55)

“Now being made free from sin” and

“servants of God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (Romans 6:22-23).

BAPTISM IS DIVINELY ORDAINED

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying ‘All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’” (Matthew 28:18-19).

BAPTISM IS LINKED TO

FAITH; “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” (Mark 16:16)

REPENTANCE; To those “pricked in their heart” the command was given, “Repent and be baptized every one of you.” (Acts 2:37-38)

FORGIVENESS; “Be baptized every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of sins.” (Acts 2:38)

SALVATION; “Baptism doth also now save us . . . by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 3:21)

“And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Act 22:16)

Welcome Guests!

Please fill out this card and leave it with us. Thanks!

GUESTS

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State _____ Zip _____

First time to visit I have _____

New to community I want _____

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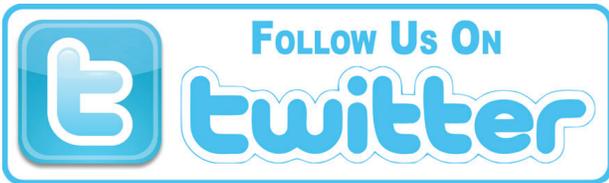


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- Starting Over - Sept. 28

- Believing in Jesus - Sept. 28
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