

Vancleave Church of Christ

Sermon Title: The Blessings of Knowing God

Scripture: Hebrews 8:10, 11

June 25, 2023

Dwayne Pannell: He has returned home and is improving. Very thankful for our prayers.

Mitzi Drennen: She was recently hospitalized after being injured. Prayers are requested.

Riley Faith: She is a 5-year-old with cancer and on hospice. Sister Girod has asked that we pray for her.

Traci Herrin: She received a good report but more tests are being run to verify cancer is all cleared.

Ron Wages: He has been having much trouble with his back and currently unable to receive treatment.

Kim Adkins: She came through surgery and is recovering very well. Thanks for prayers!

Ongoing Prayers

Please be sure to update at: vcocministry@vancleavemschurch.org

David Robinson	Charlie Tanner	Kristina Meyers	Malory Glenn
Michael Schlett	Barbara Patton	Earl Kenney	Linda Kenney
Roger Hammond	Gene Searcey	Lisa Jenkins	Tara Forte
Jackie Roach	Sue Flurry	Gregory Cooley	Frank Sentelle
Keondra Huddleston	Teresa Blackmon	Carla Clayton	Scott Mcollough
Zenie George	Cheryl Solla	Tommy Webb	Anita Dees
Pete Hankins	Andi Barrett		

A Word of Encouragement for the Week Ahead

“Sometimes when we get overwhelmed we forget how big God is.” A.W. Tozer

“Thus saith the LORD, The heaven *is* my throne, and the earth *is* my footstool: where *is* the house that ye build unto me? and where *is* the place of my rest?.”

(Isaiah 66:1; KJV)

Announcements / Other:

- Other:

Our Local Mailing Address:

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Water Baptism: For Whom Did Jesus Command It?

By Duane Patton

According to a fair reading of the New Testament Scriptures, baptizing infants as a matter of faith in Christ is unnecessary and neither Jesus nor His apostles taught it as being part of the New Covenant. The practice of infant baptism began long after the complete revelation of God's will in Christ was made known and it has no basis in Scripture. Many who agree with the previous statements may not be so agreeable with a matter regarding adult baptism. Consider the following.

Scripture indicates that water immersion (baptism) is for the repentant yet unsaved believer, but it is not for those who've already been saved. To be sure, not one instance in all of Scripture makes water baptism necessary for the saved believer in Jesus. Teaching otherwise is not according to Jesus or His apostles. Many insist that infant baptism is not baptism as it does not comport with the words of Christ and the apostles, and this insistence is warranted. But, it is incorrect to teach water baptism is not required for salvation for certain adults. The Bible plainly states water immersion is as necessary for salvation as the blood of Jesus itself. Many have and will strongly object to this proposition of faith, but all objections to this comes not from Scripture. Instead, objections arise from many years of reformation teaching that has corrupted the Gospel message even among modern scholars and exegetes who might otherwise win the world for Christ, so to speak.

Jesus and the apostles taught that to become a disciple (one who is a learned follower of Jesus having been saved from past sins by Jesus' blood) the good news of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection is to be believed by those to whom it is taught. The evidence of such belief includes and requires repentance from sin and water immersion. In other words, one who is dead in sins, although at a formative state of belief and repentance after having heard the kingdom message, is to be "buried with Christ in baptism" wherein he/she comes into spiritual contact with the blood of Jesus and is subsequently raised out of the watery grave to "walk in newness of life." Our Lord shed His blood in death, water baptism symbolizes His death, burial and resurrection (Please see, **Romans 6:1-5; Rev. 1:5b; Acts 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21**; cf., **Matt.28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:37-42; 8:30-31; 18:8b; Gal.3:26,27; Col. 2:12**, etc.).

This is precisely why Jesus commanded baptism: it is the culmination of the penitent believer's initial saving faith. It is certainly not an act of obedience to Him by the one whom He has already saved. Not one hermeneutically sound and arguably valid example in the New Testament text can be shown where a new believer (i.e., one having been previously saved by placing his/her faith in Jesus' blood) was commanded to be baptized. Passages in the Bible which may appear to suggest or teach otherwise should always be understood in the light of plain teaching elsewhere in the biblical text. Even as the Psalmist declared, "The sum of thy word is truth..." (**119:60**). A sound interpretation of Scripture is one wherein we draw only those conclusions such as are warranted by sufficient evidence. Sufficient evidence is drawn from the immediate and remote texts along with any and all other related information, provided such information harmonizes with the balance of Scripture.

If sincere evangelist and believers in general would get this right, then maybe the churches would begin to heal from the religious division so plaguing nominal Christianity. Maybe professing believers could truly unite and make the entire world believe that Jesus really is who He claims and has shown Himself to be (viz., **Jn. 17:20,21**).