

## For Our Information

Joyce Venable has been dealing with coughing this week.

John LaValla is taking antibiotics for his appendix and is feeling better. He will see his cancer Dr next week.

The Simpson Family is out of town this weekend. The Keislars and the Hendersons plan to be in Texas part of this week.

Scans showed John Venable's lung spots were too small to biopsy.

Remember one another as we pray to the Father each day

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

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We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

**13:3; Acts 2:38**). Finally, baptism is what changes a man's relationship from being outside of Christ to being in Christ (**Galatians 3:27**). One is not "in Christ" until he has been baptized for the remission of sins. Truly, baptism for the remission of sins is a controversial subject. The reason for this is because men do not want to do it! When we get our hearts right, we will do all that God has said. When we love Him, we will keep His commandments (**John 14:15,23-24**). Do not turn your back on Christ, but do what is right by becoming His child and living for Him all the days of your life (**Romans 12:1-2; 1Corinthians 15:58; 2Corinthians. 5:14-15**).

(This article appeared originally in the May 2000 issue of StraitWay. The teaching it provides is just as needed today as it was then. The Scripture is clear in showing that baptism for remission of sins is required by God for us the enter His family. Will you submit to God's Way? DLH)

# Seeking His Righteousness

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## The Purpose Of Baptism

### Jarrood Jacobs

This subject is perhaps the most argued, the most denied, and the most misunderstood among people who say they believe in God, in Christ, and say they are saved. I myself have debated this subject twice between November of 1998 and March of 1999. I affirmed that baptism was necessary for the remission of sins and my opponent denied it. Why is this such a controversial topic? Why are people divided on this subject when the New Testament shows the necessity of baptism so clearly?

**Defining Baptism:** Baptism, as is

*For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.*

**Galatians 3:27**



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## Meet With Us

**Worship Services**

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

**Bible Classes**

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

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used in the Bible, is “consisting of the processes of immersion, submersion and emergence .... to dip” (Vine’s Amplified Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, p. 62). Mr. Thayer defines baptism as, “to immerge, submerge .... to overwhelm, to be overwhelmed with calamities, of those who must bear them” (Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon, p. 94). Therefore, baptism is an immersion in something. The context reveals the element.

**What The Bible Says:** The Bible mentions at least six baptisms, yet there is only one baptism in effect today (**Ephesians 4:4**). This is baptism in water (**Acts 8:36-39; 1Peter 3:20-21**). What is its purpose? Jesus said that baptism was necessary for salvation (**Mark 16:15-16**). As did Peter (**Acts 2:38; 1Peter 3:21**) and Ananias (**Acts 22:16**). The New Testament teaches that baptism stands between the sinner and salvation (**Mark 16:16; 1Peter 3:21**). It stands between the sinner and the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). Baptism stands between the sinner and washing sins away (**Acts 22:16**). It stands between the sinner and wearing the name “Christian” (**1Corinthians 1:13; Acts 11:26**). Baptism stands between the sinner and life (**Galatians 3:26-27**). (Before baptism, one is spiritually dead, **Ephesians 2:1,12**). It stands between the sinner and spiritual freedom (**Romans 6:16-18**).

Baptism is not for babies, but for those who are able to hear the word of God (**Acts 2:22; Mark 16:15**), believe that word (**Romans 10:17**), repent of their sins (**Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3**); and confess their faith in Christ (**Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:10**). When one does these things, he is ready to be baptized for the

## Store In My Heart

### Colossians 2:13-14

And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Through the death of Jesus on the cross, we can live for eternity. Before that death the only hope was found in following the ordinances given to Israel through Moses. The cross ended that law and left us to the care of our Savior, Jesus the Christ. Through Him we have life. The way of Christ provides a clear path to be with God for all eternity. Are you following that Way?

remission of sins. The New Testament declares that baptism is not done to show the world that a person is saved, but is done in order to save a person (**Mark 16:16; 1Peter 3:21**).

Remember dear readers, if we are going to talk about this, or any other Bible subject, we must find out what the Bible says about the subject. It is not honest to look at passages that do not even mention the word “baptism” and try to deduce the purpose of baptism from those passages.

**Baptism And The Blood Of Christ:** When speaking of baptism, some will say we are not relying on the blood of Christ. Not so! The New Testament makes it clear that the blood of Christ saves us, just as baptism saves us. When Jesus instituted the Lord’s Supper, He said, *“this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins”* (**Matthew 26:28**). Notice that He said His blood was shed “for” or, in order to remit sins. No one denies this. In **Acts 2:38**, Peter told the people gathered in Jerusalem to, *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Notice that whatever Christ’s blood is “for,” so also baptism is “for”!

**Conclusion:** Put in simple terms, in order to be converted to the Lord, it requires a change in the heart of a man, a change in his lifestyle, and a change in relationship. When this happens, man is converted to the Lord. Faith in God is what changes a man’s heart (**Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17; John 8:24**). Repentance is what changes a man’s lifestyle (**Luke**