

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

1John 4:7

## Store In My Heart Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

This verse clearly states that baptism is necessary for one to receive salvation from God. Though many want to refute it, the language reveals to us that repentance and baptism bring forgiveness of our sins. Every English version I have checked, including paraphrases, clearly teaches that forgiveness follows obedient baptism. It is hard to misunderstand this verse. Yet millions are led astray by the doctrines of men that want to change what it says. We need to listen to God, not men.

If you want to please God, you will simply do as He has commanded and submit to him completely. Put to death your old self, be buried with Christ in baptism, and rise out of that watery grave a child of God.



## I Have A Tradition ... Unknown

Yes, I have my own little tradition. There is a certain style of shoe that I have worn for many years. I can't remember exactly when I ordered the first pair. When a pair gets old, I replace it with the same number ordered from the same company. It is a slip-on kidskin. It fits my feet nicely (11B), it is comfortable, it looks nice, and it is convenient (just slip them on and off with no strings attached). In short, I buy the same old shoe over and over for those reasons. It doesn't bother me that some may think I am in a rut. I have thought about changing a few times, but then I have thought, "Why change?" All the reasons that I bought the first pair are still valid. The shoe still works great. Of course, if I were to find out that kidskin is against the law, I would abandon my tradition and find another number to buy and likely start a new shoe tradition.

Do I have a point to make with all of this? As some are prone to say, "You betcha."

My spiritual brethren have some expedients and certain ways of doing things that have become traditional over time. They are lawful (scriptural). They have proven to work for them and continue to do so. The membership is comfortable with them and are diligent in their use of these expedients to glorify God. They don't have to be concerned about how we are going to do it this time. In short, these traditional expedients are indeed expedient and profitable. Everyone seems happy doing things this way week in and week out – until some "tradition buster" comes in and demands changes to his liking. If changes are not made to his liking, then he will work the membership until he can get enough following to start his own "tradition-free" group that he can run (or is it ruin) to his liking. This "new work" will then have to have its own expedients that in time will become their traditions.

Yes, in the area of expedients we have some traditions. A second Sunday service and Wednesday night services are traditional. So are our Gospel Meeting arrangements. Would a congregation be scriptural without these. Yes. They are expedients to the command for the church to edify itself as well as to teach any lost who might attend. They have

proven over time to work to that end. If a congregation were to decide to drop them, I would not say it would become unscriptural. But I would tell them they are abandoning good tools that have proven to work for many years – why change just for sake of change? At the same time, we must realize that there are congregations with unusual circumstances where it would be more expedient to drop these extra services. They should not be criticized, but it is a shame that their circumstances are such that they cannot utilize these expedients. But if they are as dedicated as they should be they will find other ways and means to edify themselves beyond the one oblatory Sunday assembly.

Congregations traditionally arrange their auditoriums where the speaker stands up front facing the congregation in pews (or other seats) arranged so the audience can see and hear the speaker well. Why? It has proven to work. For one thing, it gives the speaker and the audience good eye contact without the audience being distracted by looking at others in the audience in the face. Their focus can be on the speaker and what he is saying. Would another arrangement be unscriptural. No. But since this one has worked so well for so long, why change it?

The list could go on (like our four-part harmony singing) but this should give us something to think about when it comes to traditions.

God expects us to surrender our wisdom to His wisdom in matters where He has spoken – that is to follow the “traditions” received from the inspired New Testament writers. He then expects us to develop our senses (wisdom, judgment) enough to profitably develop and use expedients to apply His wisdom that do not set aside that wisdom (**Hebrews 5:14**). God’s traditions had better be kept (**2Thessalonians 2:15**) and our expedients may become traditional with time but that alone is no reason to arbitrarily abandon or change them without good reason.

(Change can be good if it proves profitable in service to God. Traditions can also be good. We need to evaluate our ‘expedients’ in light of their value in serving God according to His Will. Change just for the sake of change often leads to problems. Doing things a certain way just because we have always done it that way can also lead to problems when circumstances change. Our change to Bible Class on Sunday evening rather than preaching has shown profit in our knowledge and participation in learning God’s Word. The return of Gospel Meetings to our schedule has also brought benefit. As a congregation we must keep our focus on God and use expedients that help us please Him. DLH)

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak  
with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

1512 Tanner Street

Malvern, AR 72104

(501) 332-8806

preacher@tannerst.com

tannerst.com

FB @TannerStCoC

## For Our Information

**Sue Soliday** is dealing with a flare up of her lymphedema.

**Brenda Keisler** is having hip trouble bothering her with osteoarthritis.

**Vickie McNees** has a dr appointment for her migraines.

**John LaValla** is still dealing with respiratory issues.

**Bill Venable** is in Jonesboro with his siblings.

The **Simpson** Family is in Star City.

**Alaina Adcock Berryhill** is working this weekend.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 13** Wednesday – **1John 1**

The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study