

Let us, knowing the terrors of the Lord, not do iniquity. At death, believers shall shine forth to themselves; at the great day they shall shine forth before all the world. They shall shine by reflection, with light borrowed from the Fountain of light. Their sanctification will be made perfect, and their justification published. May we be found of that happy number.

-----News-----

Herman Atchley news?

Louella Briggs' brother **Neil Shaw** news?

Gerry Clark will be leaving on September 30 for Missouri and won't return until Nov. 1.

Family Reunion III in Mammoth, AZ will be Saturday, September 29. Time: 10 A.M. To 3 P.M. Jeff Taylor will speak and Cecil Price will lead singing. It will be held at the **Charles F. Clark Community Center**, 101 W. 5th St. #2, Mammoth, AZ 85618. Please RSVP to 520-248-1744 or olan52@hotmail.com.

Prayer List

Healing: *Neil Shaw, Charles Lawrence, Chuck Brooks, Faye Atchley, Herman Atchley, Ben Atchley, Nicolas Self, Annie Self, Douglas Gardner, Brandon (Gerry Clark's grandson), Diane Cocks's brother-in-law Dave Smith, Dave Morse, Richard Tuey.* **Travels:** *John and Sharon Cunningham, Gerry Clark.*

Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

23 September 2012

Sermon Topics:

AM: The Parable of the Weeds

Matthew 13:24 ff

P.M. Wisdom & Folly are Meaningless

Ecclesiastes 2:12-16

Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-5974

Elders

Ben Atchley: 428-2246

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Services

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.

Were You Baptized or Did You Just Get Wet?

by Ed Stover, Edgewood Church of Christ, Edgewood, Tx November 8, 2009

When we study a topic as vital as baptism, we must consider how important it is for someone to truly understand the reason and purpose for the act of baptism itself. There is no saving power alone in the act of being immersed in water. There are conditions that must proceed [*sic*] and coincide with the act of immersion for the act to be considered a true and legitimate baptism in the eyes of God. I read a story once of a gospel preacher who baptized a man whose wife was already a member of the Lord's church. After the preacher brought the man up out of the water, the man looked over at his wife and said, "Are you happy now?" Obviously, a man with an attitude like that was not baptized at all, and accomplished nothing

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more than getting wet. For a person to be saved at the point of baptism, he must understand what exactly he is doing and what is being accomplished in the act. He also must fulfill the other conditions of salvation that correspond to the act of being immersed in water. Let's consider the other conditions that must be present at baptism so we can see how the reason of baptism will be known, and the purpose of it will be fulfilled.

1. Before one can be baptized, he must have faith. Jesus said, "He that believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16). Without faith it is impossible to be saved at the point of baptism. The writer of Hebrews stated that it is impossible to please God without faith (Heb. 11:6). The first condition in God's plan of salvation is to hear the Word (the gospel). Every example of someone being saved in the New Testament was preceded [*sic*] by them hearing the word preached or taught. We know that "faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). One must have faith and understand that God will save him by the power of His Son's death on the cross. It must be understood through faith that they are being added to His church, and their sins are being forgiven. Without faith, the act of immersion is useless. The sinner making the confession that he believes Jesus is the Son of God prior to being baptized exhibits this faith.

2. Before one can be baptized, he must repent. Peter told those present on Pentecost to "Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Repentance is the act of changing one's heart toward sin. It is brought about by the godly sorrow one feels from realizing his sinful behavior before God (2 Cor. 7:9). A person's newfound faith in God, and the godly sorrow he feels, should drive him to leave his past sinful behavior behind. His old sins will be forgiven at the point of baptism. A person cannot expect to continue

to live in the same sinful behavior after baptism as he did before it. This does not mean that the new Christian will not sin occasionally through weakness, but his attitude toward sin should be that he would avoid it at all cost. This is something that must be understood at the point of baptism.

3. If someone was baptized without having faith or truly repenting, should they be re-baptized? The truth is they were never truly baptized to begin with! It is impossible for someone to be saved at the point of baptism without having faith or repenting. As one preacher said, "they started out a dry devil and came up from the water a wet devil." When one enters the waters of baptism in faith with a penitent attitude toward God, he can arise from the waters confident he is a saved child of God.

Comments on Mat 13:24 ff

By Matthew Henry

Vss. 24-30, 36-43: This parable represents the present and future state of the gospel church; Christ's care of it, the devil's enmity against it, the mixture there is in it of good and bad in this world, and the separation between them in the other world.

So prone is fallen man to sin, that if the enemy sow the tares, he may go his way, they will spring up, and do hurt; whereas, when good seed is sown, it must be tended, watered, and fenced.

The servants complained to their master; Sir, didst thou not sow good seed in thy field? No doubt he did; whatever is amiss in the church, we are sure it is not from Christ. Though gross transgressors, and such as openly oppose the gospel, ought to be separated from the society of the faithful, yet no human skill can make an exact separation. Those who oppose must not be cut off, but instructed, and that with meekness. And though good and bad are together in this world, yet at the great day they shall be parted; then the righteous and the wicked shall be plainly known; here sometimes it is hard to distinguish between them.