

**Clarksville Church of Christ**  
 407 W Lewis & Clark Pkwy  
 Clarksville, IN 47129-1649  
 (812) 944-2305  
[www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

**Sundays**  
 Bible Study..... 9:30 AM  
 Worship.....10:30 AM  
 Worship.....6:00 PM

**Wednesdays**  
 Bible Study.....7:30 PM

**Elders**  
 Stephen W. Nale.....812-948-9917  
 Allen L. Morris.....812-967-4536

**Deacons**  
 Jeffrey B. Hunt.....502-931-5766  
 Elbert Metcalf.....812-246-5938  
 Rondal O. Thompson Jr....812-944-8295  
 Mark Maudlin.....502-523-0479

**Evangelist & Editor**  
 Brian Anderson.....317-442-9507  
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Goals For 2020  
Theme  
 A Church With 2020 Vision  
Attendance: Sunday Bible Study: 40;  
Sunday AM: 50  
Sunday PM: 40; Wednesday Bible Study: 30

Giving: Meet Our Yearly Budget

Invitations: 130

Every Member Committed To Daily Bible Reading

Every Member Committed To Daily Prayer

Every Member Committed To Be At Every Service

Hold a "Bible Basics" Class  
Hold A Men's Training Class

Hold One Gospel Meeting

-Like us on Facebook-View us on YouTube at Clarksvillechurch

We are now in the 26th week of our Bible Reading.

**Prayer List**  
 Sharon Nale  
 Les & Novema Dunn  
 Debby Spears (Roseann's sis)  
 Sharon Thompson  
 The Wards  
 Dale Kahl  
 Brooke Thomas

**Baptism:** Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38; 8:13; 10:48; 16:15, 33, 18:8; 19:5-6, 22:16

**Gospel Meeting** June 28-July 1 w/ Brother Todd Rogers

**Lord's Supper Reading**  
 Is 53:3-6

**Scripture Reading**  
 AM: See Preacher  
 PM: See Preacher

**Encouragement Tally**  
 Invites this month: 2  
 Invites last month: 110  
 Visitors last year: 48  
 Visitors YTD: 8

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The  
**Clarksville Beacon**  
[www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org](http://www.Clarksvillechurchofchrist.org)

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Volume 32 Issue 26 Clarksville Church of Christ June 28, 2020

**God On Social Distancing**

**Welcome!**  
 If you're visiting with us today, we want you to feel welcome and we want you to feel like our honored guest! We also want you to know that all we're interested in here at the Clarksville Church of Christ is the Truth. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32. The truth He's talking about is God's word. Jesus said, "Sanctify them by thy truth, Thy word is truth." John 17:17. Therefore we hope you'll appreciate that we'll give you book, chapter and verse from the Bible, the word of God, for everything that we say or do here today, so that everything that we do may bring glory unto God, I Pet. 4:11.

This current distress during which the world is suffering has introduced several new things. One of which is the idea of "social- distancing." The technical definition of this is "a set of nonpharmaceutical infection control actions intended to stop or slow down the spread of a contagious disease."

Were you aware this is not a new concept to God, or His Word? Did you realize God, on numerous occasions, commanded "social- distancing?" Consider these passages as verification.

- 1) **"Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" (Exo. 23:2).** When a person of faith sees evil and the workers thereof, he is to "Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away" (Prov. 4:15).
- 2) **"When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of these nations" (Deut. 18:9).** God made His wandering children constantly aware of the dangers of socially joining the heathen nations of the Promised Land. Regarding the practices of those folks God said, "Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them" (Deut. 12:30).
- 3) **"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise; but a companion of fools shall be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20).** We ought to surround ourselves with those who are wisdom-filled (Col. 1:9). Encircling ourselves with worldly folks will bring destruction. Consider what happened when "the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose" (Gen. 6:2). "God saw...the wickedness" which resulted and said, "I will destroy man whom I have created" (Gen. 6:5,7).
- 4) **"Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners" (I Cor. 15:33).** Any time the Bible employs the words "Be not deceived," it indicates some have already been tricked, and men will continue to be so if the warning is not heeded! Solomon "loved many strange women" (I Kings 11:1). He had "seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart" (I Kings 11:3). Neh. 13:26 says with reference to Solomon, "nevertheless even him did outlandish women cause to sin." If the wise man can be deceived in this regard, so can I!

God, in calling for His people to "socially- distance" themselves from "unfruitful works of darkness" (Eph. 5:11) displays His great love and concern. May we heed the Divine call to keep ourselves from those who cause harm.

-Larry Ping II

## When a “Baptism” isn’t Baptism

Baptism is a Bible subject. As a Biblical matter, it deserves our careful and thorough examination. Scripture clearly explains that a candidate for baptism must “believe” (Mark 16:16) and “repent” (Acts 2:38) prior to being buried in water (Col. 2:12), and the purpose of baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38; 22:16), in order that one might “be saved” (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21) and enter “into Christ” (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27). If one experiences a “baptism,” but not as a proper candidate or in the proper manner or for the proper reason, then such a “baptism” is not actually a Bible baptism.

God’s candidates for His baptism are penitent believers (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). If one is “baptized” before having faith in Jesus Christ or before repenting of personal sins, then that individual has not actually been baptized with the baptism of the Bible. The Lord gave a proper sequence to follow, and it is not possible to retroactively say, “Well, I did all of the steps, but just in a different order.” If you were baptized before believing and repenting, then you did not experience the baptism designed by Christ.

God’s mode for His baptism is immersion (Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3-4). If one is “baptized” by means of sprinkling or pouring water over the head, then that individual has not actually been baptized with the baptism of the Bible. The Lord defined baptism as immersion, both in word and in pattern, and it is not possible for us to do it in a different way but then still claim that we’ve done it in God’s way. If you were “baptized” without being immersed, then you did not experience the baptism designed by God.

God’s purpose for baptism is to obtain the forgiveness of sins, which forgiveness one did not have prior to being baptized (Acts 2:38; 22:16). If one is “baptized” as “an outward sign of an inward grace,” or as “a public acknowledgement that I’m saved,” or as an “entry requirement for a new church I’m attending,” then that individual has not actually been baptized with the baptism of the Bible, for none of those are purposes designed by God. Likewise, if one is “baptized” because “my parents wanted me to do it,” or “the Sunday school teacher pressured me,” or “my best friend was just baptized,” or even “it was the right thing to do,” none of these fulfill the purpose that God assigned to Bible baptism. After learning the truth, one cannot retroactively assign “for the remission of sins” as the purpose for his baptism, if that was not the actual reason that he was “baptized.”

Have you been immersed into water as a penitent believer in order that you might obtain salvation from your sins? If not, “why do you wait?” (Acts 22:16). Let’s talk.

## What Do I Need To Know About Baptism

Baptism is one of those topics that seems like it should be simple, but there are so many different ideas regarding it and so many different practices of it that one can easily get confused trying to figure out what he actually needs to know. Is there a way to simplify this topic? Is there a way to strip away all of the confusion and get down to the basics of what a person needs to know? There most certainly is! And it is as simple as just picking up the Bible and letting it do the teaching itself. What does it say?

Baptism is God’s idea, not man’s. It is important to know that man did not come up with the practice or the doctrine of baptism. God did! This is not an “invention” of man, therefore, man has no right to regulate it (or confuse it). Everything that I need to know about baptism (and everything that has any authority regarding the subject) is found in the New Testament.

Baptism is a command of God. Jesus commanded “baptizing” as the means by which to “make disciples” (Matt. 28:19), which is why the apostles “commanded” individuals “to be baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48). This is not optional. It is required in order to be obedient to God, thus it must not be minimized or altered by man.

Baptism involves prerequisites of God. Prior to being properly baptized, God (the Originator of baptism) specified certain steps that one must take. Before one can be baptized, he must be taught the gospel (Mark 16:15-16), he must believe the gospel (Acts 8:12), he must be convicted of his sins and repent of them (Acts 2:37-38), he must confess his faith in Jesus (Acts 8:36-38), he must arise of his own free will and be prepared for the commitment that baptism requires (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4). If one does not meet all of these prerequisites, then he cannot be Scripturally baptized.

Baptism is defined by God. The Bible stipulates that baptism is by (and only by) immersion. The description is always of one going down into and then up out of the water (Matt. 3:16; Acts 8:38-39). Baptism is referred to as being “buried” and then “raised” (Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12). The word itself means “to immerse.” We need to let God define it.

Baptism is given purpose by God. If we strictly limit ourselves to what God says about baptism (and not man), then we find that He clearly identifies baptism as essential in order to be “saved” (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21), to obtain “the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), to “wash away sins” (Acts 22:16), to get “into Christ” (Gal. 3:27) and to “enter the kingdom of God” (John 3:3-5). Man has no right to repurpose baptism!

Baptism is not a confusing topic. God has made it pretty simple to understand! The Bible gives it to us plain!