

Does it really matter why one is baptized?

By Bob Prichard, *House to House Heart to Heart*

Acts two describes the beginning of the Lord's church almost two thousand years ago on the Jewish day of Pentecost.

Hearing Peter's words, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" ([Acts 2:38](#)), they that "gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls" ([Acts 2:41](#)). According to [Acts 2:47](#), the Lord "added to the church daily those who were being saved." Thus, the Lord added three thousand people to His church as they obeyed the teachings of the apostles by being baptized.

While the administrator of baptism is unimportant, the purpose in baptism is of utmost importance. Anyone properly baptized, as those three thousand were on the day of Pentecost, is added unto the Lord's church. A person baptized for the wrong purpose, however, has no assurance that the Lord will add him to His church.

For example, if a man was baptized simply because his wife wanted him to be baptized, and he made no real commitment to the Lord, then Jesus certainly would not add that man to His church, because pleasing or obeying a wife is not the Lord's purpose in baptism. We see, then, that it is important to know and understand the Lord's purposes in baptism.

Jesus commissioned his disciples, "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved; but whoever does not believe will be condemned" ([Mark 16:15-16](#)). The purpose of baptism, then, as stated by Christ, is to save the believer. Scriptural baptism then, is preceded by belief in Christ. Peter told those gathered on Pentecost, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins" ([Acts 2:38](#)). So, Peter said that the purpose of baptism of the penitent believer is for the forgiveness (remission) of sins.

Ananias commanded Saul of Tarsus, "And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" ([Acts 22:16](#)). Here again the purpose of baptism is stated, to wash away sins. Paul declared to the Galatians, "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ" ([Galatians 3:27](#)). Thus, baptism puts the obedient believer into Christ, where there is salvation.

Peter compared baptism to Noah's ark, saying, "and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" ([1 Peter 3:21](#)). Peter clearly said, "baptism does also now save us."

The Scriptures show that baptism is an immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins, upon which the Lord adds that penitent and obedient believer to His church. A baptism administered merely as a denominational ordinance to those who have already been saved, or to a child that is unaware of the significance of baptism, does not fit the New Testament pattern for baptism.

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ Kevin Kastning is scheduled to have a stress test.
- ◆ Randy Johnson will have back surgery on July 3rd.
- ◆ Renee Schmucker had a double lung transplant at Barnes Hospital Tuesday. Pray her body doesn't reject the new lungs.
- ◆ Alta Schofield, Julie Johnson's mother-in-law, is home after suffering a stroke, but she is very weak.
- ◆ Scarlett Hall, daughter of former elementary principal Clint Hall, was critically injured while swimming. She has swelling of her brain.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—D. E. Pleasant, Winston Abraham, Casey Hambelton, Dorlene and Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Vernon James, Mary Morrison, Ruth Strain, Steve and Diane Siebels, Bob Robbins.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Wayman King, Kay Schneider, Jack Moyers, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Harold Reynolds, Jim Kirkland, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Nikki Smith, Jenny James, Bill McFarland, Debbie Eslinger, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth.
- ◆ Those in nursing homes and/or homebound.

A huge thank you to especially Jessica and Tiffany and all the others who helped make our VBS a success. Whether you created flowers and insects, decorated, taught lessons, prepared and served food, or prayed for its success, you are appreciated!

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Galatians 3:26-27

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Birthdays		Anniversaries	
6-1	Barbara White	6-7	Brian and Casey Hamblen
6-6	Amy Stevens	6-8	John and Melinda Abraham
6-15	Dylan Abraham	6-8	Don and Barbara Luna
6-15	Brian Hamblen (50)	6-10	Steve and Diana Siebels (30)
6-15	Titus Smith	Birthdays	
6-18	Dorlene Butler	6-29	Stetson Pleasant
6-21	Chris Lemburg	6-29	Denise Crisp (60)
6-27	Adeline Smith		

Date	Event	Details
Friday, July 4th	Barbecue Cookout Celebration	Eat supper at the pavilion with homemade ice cream. Then fireworks show on the square.

See the bulletin board for the Options Pregnancy organization's needs for volunteers and donations of baby items and/or money.

Some Unusual Things for Which to be Thankful

- ✦ Be thankful for the taxes you pay ... it means you are employed.
- ✦ Be thankful for clothes that fit a little snug ... it means you have plenty to eat.
- ✦ Be thankful for a shadow that watches you work ... it means you are out in the sunshine.

June Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

6-22 Don Luna
6-29 John Abraham

Communion & Closing Prayer

Dana Crisp
Halbert Smith

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Dana and Marsha Crisp

The Family News

June 22, 2025

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Baptized into a Relationship***

Wednesday

7 p.m. Bible Classes for All Ages Downstairs

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Larry Butler 817-504-1604
Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us