

“I Was Baptized in a Denomination”

By: David Sproule

If we ONLY had the Bible, what would we know about the church? Ponder that for a moment. If we ONLY had the Bible, what would we know about baptism? Ponder that for a moment. A third question, is everything being taught and done in the name of Jesus today in true accordance with Scripture? That just cannot be answered in the affirmative.

So, when it comes to matters of faith, matters of truth, matters of doctrine, matters of righteousness, there is ONLY one place we can go. We must turn our eyes to the Word of God and leave all human ideas and teachings behind.

First, the Word of God teaches us that “There is one body” (**Eph. 4:4**), which is “the church” (**Eph. 1:22-23**), so there is “one church.” That “one” church is not a collection of all of the manmade churches, anymore than the “one God” of verse 6 is a collection of all of the manmade gods. There is only “one church” that Jesus built (**Matt. 16:18**), purchased (**Acts 20:28**) and of which He serves as the one head (**Eph. 5:23**). God does not accept any “divisions” in His one church, for He commands everyone to “speak the same thing” (**1 Cor. 1:10**). Conclusion: The Word of God lends no support to and, in fact, condemns manmade denominationalism that exists today.

Second, the Word of God teaches us that “There is one baptism” (**Eph. 4:5**). The “one baptism” has one method—burial (**Rom. 6:4**; **Col. 2:12**; **Acts 8:38**; **Matt. 3:16**). The “one

baptism” has one authority—in the name of Jesus Christ (**Acts 2:38**; **10:48**; **19:5**; **1 Cor. 1:13**). The “one baptism” has one proper subject—a penitent believer (**Mark 16:16**; **Acts 2:38**; **8:36**; **18:8**). The “one baptism” has one purpose—for the forgiveness of sins (**Mark 16:16**; **Acts 2:38**; **22:16**; **1 Pet. 3:21**). The “one baptism” has one order of progression—hear, believe, repent, confess, baptized, be saved (**Rom. 10:8-17**; **Mark 16:16**; **Acts 2:38**; **18:8**). The “one baptism” has one church to enter—the body of Christ, the church of Christ (**Acts 2:41, 47**; **1 Cor. 12:13**; **Rom. 6:3**; **Gal. 3:27**). Conclusion: The Word of God lends no support to and, in fact, condemns (**Rev. 22:18-19**; **Gal. 1:6-9**) all manmade baptism doctrines or practices that do not conform to God’s “one baptism” specifically and clearly defined in the New Testament.

As is evidenced by simple investigation today, most denominations do not teach or practice all of these “ones” of the “one baptism.” If I was baptized in a denomination: (1) Can I be satisfied that I was truly baptized with the “one baptism”? (2) Am I willing to risk the salvation of my soul? (3) Should I not follow the example of those whose baptism was not the “one baptism” (in **Acts 19:1-5**) and get baptized today with the “one baptism” of Jesus Christ?

A Turning Point in Bible Study

By: Selected

I distinctly remember a conversation I had with a young man I had just baptized years ago in Birmingham. He was on fire for the Lord and told me that he was spending a lot of time reading the Bible. I wanted him to have a better study Bible than the one he had, so I explained the concept of translation from the Greek to English and gave him a New American Standard Version, which has outstanding center column references I find so helpful.

He called me the next day and was so excited. Now keep in mind that he had been using the King James Version. He said, “I am now so amazed as I read the Bible. You really can understand what it says! I thought reading the Bible was like reading Shakespeare—just a lot of words but no one was sure what they meant.”

Now if you were Satan, how would you deal with the powerful impact reading the Bible has on individuals? I can immediately think of two lies I would foster on all mankind. The first can be illustrated by imagining you were given a 300-page book and told beforehand that you should read it, but that it was so far above your intelligence level you would never understand it. How much would you read it? How interested would you be in wasting your time reading it? Isn't this what Satan has done? Does not America believe that the Bible is so complex that almost no one can understand it?

The second lie would be that if you spend too much time reading the Bible you will end up being a religious fanatic, bordering on

insanity. Who would read a book which is so “dangerous” it might warp you forever? Isn't this what Satan has done?

Now consider the promises of God. “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled” (**Matt. 5:6**). Who said this? When God became a man, God said it. Ours is not to deny this by believing lies originating from Satan. Ours is to believe and seek for righteousness, confidently assured that God will reveal it to us.

The Bible does have truths that are more difficult to understand than others easily understood, but even the difficult truths can be known (**2 Pet. 3:16**)! The amazing thing is that every truth related to becoming a Christian is so simply grasped. Read the Bible expecting to find the path to heaven, and God Himself has promised your desire will be fulfilled. “You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (**Jer. 29:13**).

That's the turning point in reading the Bible. You do your part. Open your Bible and read it seeking to find His will. He will do His part!



Upcoming Events

Feb. 16: Chili Cook-Off after evening service. Please bring chili, sides and desserts. There is a sign up sheet in the hallway.

Feb. 22: Ladies, there will be a wedding shower for Melani Guzman and Caleb Lehtinen at 11am at the FitzSimmon’s home. They are registered at Walmart and Amazon. Please see Nia or Emily for more info.

March 2: Monthly Potluck luncheon.

Area events:

Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.

Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Allen Clifton who had a biopsy on January 30th.

Joyce Faires who is recovering from knee surgery.

Eddie Serenil who is recovering from surgery.

Rick Bass who is still having tests done to get a correct diagnosis.

Rick Bass’ cousin, Jimmy Manuel, who is will be having hip surgery Feb. 11.

Draven Garcia who will be having knee surgery in March.

Members

Jeff Cannady, Jerry FitzSimmons, James Hicks, and Veronica Serenil.

Please get with Kelly Cannady if you would like a picture for the pictorial wall directory.

Please sign up to open/close the building, prepare communion, and host youth devos for 2025. The sign up sheets are on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Service Roster

Week of February 9, 2025

Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading..... Will Burleson
Song Leader Doug Jobs

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock
Closing Prayer..... Jeff Cannady

Lord’s Supper & Offering

Bread..... Ron White
Cup..... Dan Fielder
Offering..... Billy York
Assist..... Ferman Rosales
Assist.....Bryce Dolan
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Bryant Siegel
Closing Prayer..... Doug Jobs

Lord’s Supper & Offering.....Bryce Dolan/
Clifton Rutherford

Wednesday Evening

Adult ClassCody McCoy
Song LeaderCaleb Lehtinen
DevotionalJames Cammock

Other

Prepare CommunionFerman Rosales

Congregational News

Birthdays

Kevin Sheeran.....Feb. 18
Barbie Dolan.....Feb. 18
Virginia Escojido.....Feb. 21

Anniversaries

Curtis & Rita Rosenbrock.....Feb. 10
Ron & Mary Jo White.....Feb. 11

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email office.midtownchurch@gmail.com

Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons
Ron White

Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men's Encouragement &
Winter Youth Retreat
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and
Communication
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

Our Minister

Cody McCoy

Weekly Reading

Not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling,
but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you
were called to this, that you may inherit a
blessing. 1 Peter 3:9 NKJV

Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

Attendance Records

Week of February 2, 2025

A.M. Bible Class.....69
A.M. Worship.....109
P.M. Worship.....66
Wednesday Worship.....61

*Financial information is located on the bulletin
board in the hallway.*

Supported Works

John & Carla Moore *Bible Land Passages*

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