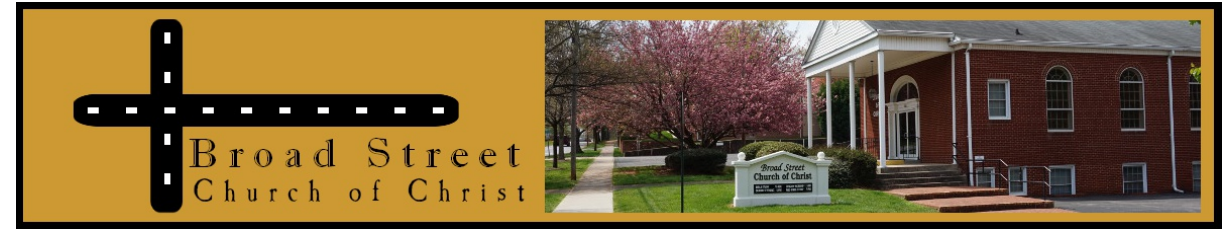


Broad Street Church of Christ
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February 07, 2016

Paul was Against Baptism?

Many in Christendom believe that baptism is not something one is required to do in order to be saved, even though both Jesus and Peter said differently (Mark 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). One of the reasons many sincerely believe this is due to what Paul said to the Corinthians in 1 Cor. 1:14-17, specifically his statement, “For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel...” (v. 17). Many conclude from this statement that baptism must not be essential to salvation. However, when one takes into account the immediate context (1 Cor. 1:10-13), as well as the inspired record of Paul’s preaching in Corinth (Acts 18:1-8), it becomes apparent that Paul definitely preached that baptism is necessary. Therefore, his comments to Corinth should not be taken as suggesting that baptism was not essential.

When we examine the context of 1 Cor. 1:14-17, we see that Paul was addressing a problem within the church there. They had the wrong attitude towards preachers, an attitude which divided them (1 Cor. 1:10-12). Some of them gave all of their allegiance to Paul, others to Apollos, others to Peter, and others to Christ. Basically, they were thinking too highly of the different preachers who had preached the gospel to them, an attitude which was worldly rather than spiritual (1 Cor. 3:3-4). After all, preachers such as Paul and Apollos are nothing more than fellow servants of Christ (1 Cor. 3:5-9), which is why Paul told the Corinthians that they should not boast that their allegiance was to their fellow man (1 Cor. 3:21-23).

With this in mind, notice Paul’s question to them: “Were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Cor. 1:13). Since many of them had this divisive, misguided allegiance to preachers, the fact that Paul would ask them this question seems to imply that the Corinthians were claiming to be disciples of those who had personally baptized them. This would be the reason why Paul would then express his gratitude that he had personally baptized only a few of them, lest anyone should say that he was baptizing in his own name rather than in the name of Jesus (1 Cor. 1:14-15; cf. Acts 2:38). Luke records how “many” of the Corinthians were baptized as a result of Paul’s preaching the gospel to them (Acts 18:1-8). Paul himself baptized only a few of them, including Crispus (Acts 18:1-8; cf. 1 Cor. 1:14).

What must I do to be saved?

Hear the Gospel (Acts 15:7); Believe the Gospel (Mark 16:15-16); Repent of Sins (Acts 17:30); Confess Christ (Romans 10:9-10); Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)

Scripture Reading:	Landon Speer
Song Leader:	Lenny Freeze
Opening Prayer (A.M.):	Billy Ellenburg
Closing Prayer (A.M.):	Matt Phillips
Opening Prayer (P.M.):	Steve Short
Closing Prayer (P.M.):	Bobby Lankford
Nursery Attendant:	Hassie Short

Worship Times	
Sunday Bible Study	10:00 A.M.
Sunday A.M. Worship	10:55 A.M.
Sunday P.M. Worship	6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 P.M.
Elders	
John Anderson	704.592.2266
Steve Short	704.872.5440
Tommy Smith	704.872.7966
Bradley Speer	704.876.6986
Preacher	
Dave Wood	704.380.4437

Building Lockup:	Guy Byrd
Announcements:	Guy Byrd
Door Greeters:	Guy and Carol Byrd
Count Contribution:	Harry Frye, John Anderson
Prepare Lord's Table:	Elaine Johnson
Lord's Supper (A.M.):	John Anderson, Britt Brookshire, Bailey Lankford, Joshua Speer
Lord's Supper (P.M.):	Johnny Smith

(article continued)

Thus, one should not twist Paul's words to the church at Corinth to imply that he didn't believe baptism was necessary for salvation. On the contrary, his writings make it clear that baptism is a necessary component of spiritually dying to sin, being buried and clothed with Christ, being spiritually resurrected to a new life, and entering into a covenant relationship with God similar to the Old Testament covenant relationship manifested by circumcision (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27; Col. 2:11-12; cf. Gen. 17:9-14). Paul himself verbally testified of his own baptism and how he was told that it was how his sins would be washed away and he would call on the name of the Lord in order to be saved (Acts 22:16; cf. 2:21). So when we read Paul's statement to the Corinthians, "For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel..." (1 Cor. 1:17), we should understand that he is not repudiating the necessity of baptism. Rather, the context informs us he is trying to cause the Corinthians to repent of their misguided allegiance to the ones who had personally baptized them.

Furthermore, the fact that Paul was an apostle (a word which means "one sent") should also be taken into consideration, especially when we read him give the reason Christ "sent" him: "to preach the gospel" (1 Cor. 1:17). As an apostle, Paul's role was to preach the gospel, "the unsearchable riches of Christ" (Eph. 3:8). Paul fulfilled his role by preaching divinely inspired sermons wherever he went (Gal. 1:11-12). His preaching resulted in the baptism of his converted listeners, as was the case at Corinth (Acts 18:8). However, it was not imperative that he himself baptize his believing listeners. Others (such as his traveling companions like Apollos), could easily do that task. This evidently happened at Corinth, for while "many" were baptized (Acts 18:8), Paul himself personally baptized only a few (1 Cor. 1:14-16).

In rebuking the Corinthians for their misguided allegiance, Paul reminded them that he had not been crucified for them, nor had they been baptized in his name (1 Cor. 1:13). However, Christ HAD been crucified for them, and for us as well. Have you been baptized in the name of the One who died for you? By: Jon Mitchell

Welcome to Broad Street Church of Christ

A special welcome is extended to all of our guests. Please let us know if we can assist you. Please fill out a visitor's card which is located on the back of the pew in front of you. Deposit the card in the collection plate when it is passed. If you are looking for a place to worship regularly, we would love to have you here at Broad Street. Please come back and visit with us again.

SHUT-INS:

Ruby Gibson, Christine Cartner and Frances Elam.

PRAYERS:

Johnny Smith Jr., Phyllis Rumble, Stanley Sharpe, Helen Lyerly, Doris Ellenburg, Stacey Jordan, Will Winchester, Betty Smith, Jo Anne Leake, Harold Johnson and Roy Baldwin.

- Faye Fox is recovering from cataract surgery.

- Belle Alexander is scheduled for cataract surgery on Feb. 10.

- Lenny Freeze is at home recovering from his surgery.

- Wilma Collins, Susan Smith's mother, will have knee replacement surgery on Tuesday.

- Franklin White is now receiving care at the Gordon Hospice House.

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 08: Ladies' class will meet at 6:30 P.M.

Feb. 11: Book of the month fellowship. We will cover chapter 2.

Feb. 13: Ladies' breakfast will meet at 8:30 A.M.

Feb. 14: Men's training class will meet at 5:15 P.M.

Feb. 19: There will be a spaghetti dinner for the retired members of the congregation. This dinner will be hosted by the teens.

Feb. 28: Men's training class will meet at 5:15 P.M.

Feb. 28: Fourth Sunday evening singing. Don't forget the fellowship meal following evening services!

Sermons:

A.M. - How to Have a Happy 2016 prt Five (Matt. 5:6-8);

P.M. - Deacons and Elders prt Five (titus 1:5-9)