

Baptism
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
December 15, 2007

There are several reasons for studying the Bible.

- To determine God's will
- To understand God's plans
- To learn the history of God's people
- To learn as much of prophecy as we are allowed to know
- To learn how to worship God
- To learn how to relate to other human beings
- To learn how we should live – including what we should eat
- To be expert enough on these topics to be able to answer questions when we are asked

This last reason means that we must review topics periodically. That explains why God's Holy Days are repeated annually. He knows that we need the reminders.

Today, we will review what is necessary, according to the New Testament, for followers of Jesus Christ and His message.

Matthew 3

- 1 In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea,
- 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!"
- 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.'"
- 4 And John himself was clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.
- 5 Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him
- 6 and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins.
 - Before Christ began His 3 ½ years of teaching, John was already baptizing people
 - This means that baptism had already been established as a ritual
- 7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism, he said to them, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?"
- 8 "Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance,
-
- 11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
 - Many Baptist preachers, and others I am sure, have preached that the baptism of fire is necessary
 - John was really contrasting two baptisms – one for life and one for death

Baptism
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
December 15, 2007

- The baptism of fire references the 2nd death in Gehenna fire
- 12 "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

John 1

- 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
-
- 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.
- 7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.
- 8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.
-
- 15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"
 - Remember that John was born a few months (probably 6) before Jesus
- 16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.
- 17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.
- 18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
- 19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"
- 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."
- 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."
- 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"
- 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD,'" as the prophet Isaiah said."
- 24 Now those who were sent were from the Pharisees.
- 25 And they asked him, saying, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"
 - This seems to indicate that prophets conducted baptisms
- 26 John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, but there stands One among you whom you do not know.
 - John told them that Christ's baptism would be different
- 27 "It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

Baptism
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
December 15, 2007

- 28 These things were done in Bethabara beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing.
- 29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- 30 "This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'
- 31 "I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water."
- 32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.
- 33 "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

Matthew 3

- 13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.
 - Even at the beginning, Jesus was setting an example for us
 - Remember what he did and said at His last Passover:
 - **John 13:**
 - 14 "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.
 - 15 "For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.
 - 16 "Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him.
- 14 And John tried to prevent Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"
- 15 But Jesus answered and said to him, "Permit it to be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he allowed Him.
- 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.
- 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Mark 16:

- 16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

John 3:

Baptism
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
December 15, 2007

- 22 After these things Jesus and His disciples came into the land of Judea, and there He remained with them and baptized.
- 23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.

John 4:

- 1 Therefore, when the Lord knew that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John
- 2 (though Jesus Himself did not baptize, but His disciples),

Acts 2

- 37 Now when they heard this (**Peter's sermon**), they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?"
- 38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- 39 "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
- 40 And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, "Be saved from this perverse generation."
- 41 **Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.**
 - No time for "counseling"
 - One person could not have done 3000 baptisms

Acts 8

- 27 So he arose and went. And behold, a man of Ethiopia, a eunuch of great authority under Candace the queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasury, and had come to Jerusalem to worship,
- 28 was returning. And sitting in his chariot, he was reading Isaiah the prophet.
- 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."
- 30 So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?"
- 31 And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him.
- 32 The place in the Scripture which he read was this: "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; And as a lamb before its shearer is silent, So He opened not His mouth.
- 33 In His humiliation His justice was taken away, And who will declare His generation? For His life is taken from the earth."

Baptism
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
December 15, 2007

- 34 So the eunuch answered Philip and said, "I ask you, of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?"
- 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him.
- 36 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?"
- 37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."
- 38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

Acts 9

- Ananias baptized Saul

Acts 10

- Peters vision
- Peter's meeting with Cornelius
- Peter preaches to Cornelius' household and baptized them

Romans 6

- 1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound?
- 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?
- 3 Or do you not know that **as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?**
- 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
- 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection,
- 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.
- 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin.
- 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him,
- 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him.
- 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God.
- 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.

Baptism
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
December 15, 2007

- 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.
- 14 For sin shall not have dominion over you, for **you are not under law but under grace.**

1 Corinthians 10

- 1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
- 2 **all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,**
- 3 all ate the same spiritual food,
- 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

Ephesians 4

- 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling;
- 5 one Lord, one faith, **one baptism;**
- 6 one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.
- 7 But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

Colossians 2

- 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;
- 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.
- 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,
- 12 **buried with Him in baptism,** in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

1 Peter 3

- 18 For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,
- 19 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,
- 20 who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.
- 21 **There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,**
- 22 who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.

Baptism
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
December 15, 2007

Luke 14:

- 25 Now great multitudes went with Him. And He turned and said to them,
- 26 "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.
- 27 "And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple.
- 28 "For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it –
 - planning
 - before you start down a path, be sure you are willing to commit
- 29 "lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him,
- 30 "saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'
- 31 "Or what king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?
- 32 "Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace.
- 33 "So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple.

Matthew 6:

- 7 "And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words.
- 8 "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.
 - But He still requires you to ask!

Matthew 7:

- 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.
- 8 "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

James 4:

- 3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.
 - Your attitude needs to be right
 - Remember "Your will be done"