

<i>In Search of</i> <h1 style="display: inline;">Truth and Right</h1>		
<i>Tim Henderson, Editor</i>		
Vol. 01 No. 52 07/29/ 2007	<i>"Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things."</i> Phil. 4:8 (NASB-U)	A publication of the Wellsburg church of Christ

"And She Prevailed Upon Us"

The Story of a Certain Woman

By: Jason Moore

Part 6—

Different Views of Baptism—

Does it Really Matter?

The stories of recent conversions, particularly those of Lydia and her family, have raised legitimate questions in the minds of many about baptism and salvation. Why has Lydia's baptism and that of other Baptists caused such a stir among her family and friends? How do believers in Jesus Christ differ in their views on baptism? And do these differences matter?

As a Baptist, Lydia was taught that baptism is *not* essential for salvation. She was taught that baptism was *important*, but *not necessary* to be saved. She was taught that baptism is an act of obedience *as a Christian*, rather than an act of obedience *in order to become* a Christian. She was baptized believing that *God had already saved her* after "accepting Jesus as her personal savior." She was not baptized *for* remission of sins; she was baptized believing that her sins *were already remitted*, or forgiven.

After studying her Bible on her own for eighteen months, Lydia came to the conclusion that what she had been taught differed from what the Bible taught. She says that she wanted to study the matter on her own "with King James and Mr. Strong" so that nobody could say that she had been unduly influenced or pressured to change her mind. She found passages like Acts 2:38, "*Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.*" Her conclusion? Baptism is not just important—it's essential "*for the forgiveness of sins.*" Baptism is not an act of obedience as a Christian—it's how you become a Christian. Baptism is not administered to those who are

TIMES OF SERVICES	
SUNDAY	
Bible Classes*	10:00 AM
AM Worship	10:45 AM
PM Worship	6:30 PM
WEDNESDAY	
Bible Classes*	7:00 PM
(* Bible Classes for All Ages)	



From the editor's desk: This is the sixth of seven in a series of articles written by Jason Moore. This is the record of the conversion of a young lady and the effect it had on those around her. *TRA*

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already saved, who have already accepted Jesus as their Savior—it's how you become saved, how you accept Jesus as Savior and Lord and find acceptance with Him.

Lydia sees the difference between her past beliefs and what she reads in the Bible as significant. Some of her family and friends who, following her example, have studied the Bible for themselves have seen the stark difference too—the difference between trusting God and His word and trusting what they'd been taught about God and His word. Ironically, they all went to the Bible to prove that baptism was not essential and came away believing that it was.

My own family came from a Catholic tradition. I and the rest of my family were sprinkled with water, having been taught that such was an acceptable form of baptism. I was sprinkled as an infant. My wife, Jennifer, came from a Methodist tradition. They too practice sprinkling for baptism as well as the baptism of infants. Our two past traditions differed in whether baptism is essential for salvation. Catholicism teaches that baptism is essential; Methodism teaches that it is not. Do these differences matter?

When Jennifer and I read the Bible we both see in our past traditions a departure from what the Bible says. In Acts 16:31, Paul and Silas said to the jailor, "*Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household.*" "*And they spoke the word of the Lord to him together with all who were in his house ... and immediately he was baptized, he and all his household ... and rejoiced greatly, having believed in God with all his household*" (Acts 16:32-34).

Infants, immature and unaccountable persons *were never baptized* in the Bible. *All* of the members of the jailor's household were capable of *hearing and comprehending* Paul's preaching. They were capable of *believing* his message. They were capable of *choosing* to be baptized on their own. I was not capable of those intelligent actions as an infant or child. My parents did not save me when they baptized me as an infant. They only got me wet and probably made me a little fussy. And there is another pertinent question: what were they saving me from? What sin had I committed as an infant that jeopardized my soul? The members of the jailor's household were mature enough to hear, believe, and choose baptism because they were mature enough to have become sinners needing salvation.

Jennifer and I also learned from reading the Bible that accountable persons baptized in the Bible *were never sprinkled* with water, they were *buried* in it. "*Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life*" (Romans 6:3-4). In baptism, a sinner *dies with Christ* on the cross, is *buried with Jesus* in the tomb, and *rises with Jesus* from the dead. Burial in water reflects that belief.

Do these differences matter? They mattered enough to God to communicate them to us. And if I know God teaches one thing, and I do something else, do I trust Him? If I know God commands one thing, and I do something else, have I obeyed Him? If I know God asks one thing of me, and I do something else, do I love Him? My conclusion, Jennifer's conclusions, Lydia's conclusion: *the differences matter because they matter to God*. But don't take our word for it. *You* need to read the Bible like we did—even if it takes eighteen months. *See for yourself what God says*.

(To be concluded next week)



From the editor's desk: With next weeks bulletin we will conclude this series of articles concerning the conversion of this amazing woman "Lydia" and the effect it had on her family and those around her. As we will see in next weeks article, her conversion and life afterwards, while filled with struggles has brought great rewards in the heavenly kingdom. While we

mourn the many things Lydia has gone through, surgeries, losses and such, angels in heaven rejoice in the strength she has shown in not only obeying the gospel and turning her back on everything she had ever known, but remaining steadfast in the face of stiff adversity. That steadfastness is a quality we would all do well to emulate, we who know nothing of her sufferings, but easily obey God's will, not really thinking about the commitment we are making to God.

But you know, this article brings out something else of importance. In our studying of the Bible, we can easily see that baptism is a burial, not a sprinkling or a pouring. But if the translators such as William Tyndale, and those hired by King James to translate the Bible into English would have just actually translated the Greek word *baptizo* instead of transliterating it (giving the Greek word an English spelling), there would be no misunderstanding at all. If they would have just translated it as *immerse* there would be no questions. Unfortunately this is a mistake that has been repeated by every English translation since, the recent King James Version, the American Standard Version, the New American Standard Version, the New King James Version, every translation has failed in this respect. It is with these thoughts that I am preparing a series of lessons to be delivered in the future concerning the translations we have available today. I hope to have them ready by next Sunday evening and they will proceed over the following Sunday evenings services.

Speaking of next Sunday, it will mark our one year anniversary with the congregation here. To put it mildly, it has been an enjoyable year here, one filled with getting to know such good people and making them a part of our family. I look forward to many more in the future. It is hard to believe that the time has passed so quickly. Just like with our children, you turn around and blink twice and they are grown and gone. Let us all pray that the next year will continue to bring spiritual growth to all who attend here, and may that spiritual growth spill over into numerical growth, as the world sees the lives that we live and our example is such a one like Lydia, that other's cannot deny the truths we live and have a desire to become obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

News N Notes

Please remember these in your prayers:

Sick/Surgery:

- Terry Smith, Jr., Terry and Lora Smith's son as he deals with cancer
- Susan and Scott Swanson, Dorothy Lancaster's daughter, and their baby.
- Hazel Carroll suffering from pneumonia

- Continue to remember—

- Blake Headen, Alberta's husband
- Amanda Dowdy
- Dorothy Sams, Linda Marshall's mother
- Vicki Renshaw
- Terry Smith's brother George
- Faith Kress, Linda Marshall's niece
- Ed Roberts father
- Ila Marshall, Harold Marshall's mother
- Marie Roberts
- Cindy North
- Grace Lancaster

Nursing Home:

- Hazel Carroll
- Pauline Sellers

Shut-ins:

- Rhea Henthorn
- Ethel Mahan
- Josephine Clow
- Mabel Fleming
- Pauline Midcap