

When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Colossians 3:4

Store In My Heart 1Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Temptation is never easy to overcome but knowing that God wants to help us certainly takes some of the difficulty away. No matter what we face, God will be there to help us if we put our trust in Him.

Putting our trust in God means following His Word as we walk through life. This will help us avoid much of the temptation in the world as our focus will be on drawing closer to God. When we are faced with temptation, we will have a guide to help keep us from giving in to our desire and falling into sin. Knowing His Word is essential to escaping temptation. God cannot help if we ignore His Word and follow the world.



Baptism

A Shepherd's Thought

Ulysses Buckley

I recently watched a discussion on whether it is necessary for one to be baptized to be saved. The majority of those claiming to be Christians would say no.

I recently read this quote from 'The Standard manual for Baptist Churches', by Hiscox, published in 1903. Page 21- "Baptism is not essential to salvation, for our churches utterly repudiate the dogma of 'baptismal regeneration'; but it is essential to obedience since Christ has commanded it. It is also essential to public confession of Christ before the world, and to membership in the church which is His body. And no true lover of his Lord will refuse these acts of obedience and tokens of affection."

Notice a few points from page 21: 1. Baptism is not essential to salvation. 2. But it is essential to obedience, 3. And to membership in the church which is His body.

What do we see in scripture? Jesus said in **Mark 16:16**, "*He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.*" I've heard some say in response to this verse, 'Jesus did not say, he who does not believe and is not baptized will be condemned'. Think about this, baptism in the first part of this verse is in response to believing. If one does not believe, why would he respond in baptism? A second thing to consider is that we want to know how to be saved, not how to be condemned, and the verse is clear, "*he who believes and is baptized will be saved.*"

Notice also that this article said, 'but it is essential to obedience'. Is it possible to be saved without obeying Christ? Consider **2Thessalonians 1:7-8**, *"And to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ."* If obedience to Christ is essential to salvation, and baptism is essential to obedience, how is baptism not essential to salvation.

Then it also said, 'and to membership in the church which is His body'. Is it more important to be a member of a church than to be in Christ? Notice the latter part of **Acts 2:47**, *"...And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved."* Notice **Acts 2:38,41**, *"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'" - "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."* Baptism was connected to salvation not church membership. It was the Lord who added them to the church.

(As Paul reminds us in his epistles, baptism is a burial with Christ and a raising up to a new life as a child of God. (**Romans 6:1-11**; **Colossians 2:9-12**) These passages connect our baptism with the death, burial & resurrection of our Lord. A close consideration of these verses help us see the essential nature of baptism itself. Baptism is clearly connected to our separation from the sin in our life. We "put to death" the old man of sin so that we may live new life in Christ. Baptism is not just some outward sign of our obedience, it is an act of submission to our Father. It is when we rid our life of that which separates us from God and become a part of His family. Without obedient, scriptural baptism our sins remain a part of our life and we cannot be with God. That makes it essential to our salvation. We cannot be saved outside the family of God and we cannot be part of His family if we still have sin in our life. Study carefully, serve diligently. DLH)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak
with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Jim Soliday's gout is giving him trouble, and he has a heart cath scheduled for December 30th.

JoBeth Henderson chemo treatments on Tuesdays.

Deberah Brooks is responding well to physical therapy.

Paula Laubach is dealing with a cough in addition to her back and leg pain.

Simpson family is in Star City this weekend.

Leta Rivera has a caregiver helping after falling several times.

Tommy Robinson will have radiation treatment for his cancer.

Sunday Evening - **Isaiah 40** Wednesday - **Revelation 6**