

July 3, 2022

Grace and Baptism's Necessity

By Michael Hickox

Olney Church of Christ

220 North Van Street
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Services

Sunday

Bible Study	9:30 am
A.M. Worship	10:20 am
P.M. Worship	2:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Class	7:00 pm
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Elders: Mike Gerber, Travis Hall

Deacons: John Frost, Dave Goff,
Roger Sholders

Visitors are welcome

We offer Bible classes for all ages

We also offer in-home Bible studies

We have Bible lessons on the radio
(92.9 FM) Sundays from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

Many objections to God's teaching on baptism result from a misuse of His statement "***by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast***" (Eph. 2:8-9).

These verses teach that we do not earn or deserve salvation. Salvation is a *gift* of God (cf. **Rom. 6:23**) given to those who walk by faith. What the verses do NOT say is that (1) God cannot require works from us to receive salvation (cf. **Phil. 2:12**), or (2) man is saved by faith *only*.

To know what God thinks of "faith only," we can turn to **James 2:24: *Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*** We are saved by grace through faith, but we are NOT saved by faith *only* or faith *alone*, just as we are not saved by baptism *alone*.

If we look at the "complete picture" of God's Word, we will see that God's grace and our faith in Christ are among things essential for salvation, as is baptism.

Baptism is how we can get into Christ (**Gal. 3:27**), and is necessary for remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**).

Christ: The Spiritual Lifeline

By Michael Hickox

The hymn *Throw Out the Lifeline*, written by Edwin S. Ufford, encourages Christians to tell others about Jesus. We must “throw out” the spiritual lifeline by sharing the Gospel of Christ.

Part of one version of the song includes an exhortation to those not in a saved condition. The final three verses state:

This is the lifeline, oh, tempest-tossed men, Baffled by waves of temptation and sin; Wild winds of passion, your strength cannot brave, But Jesus is mighty, and Jesus can save.

Jesus is able! To you who are driv'n Farther and farther from God and from Heav'n, Helpless and hopeless, o'erwhelmed by the wave, We throw out the lifeline—'tis, “Jesus can save.”

This is the lifeline, oh, grasp it today! See, you are recklessly drifting away; Voices in warning, shout over the wave, Oh, grasp the strong lifeline, for Jesus can save.

Sin separates us from God (**Isa. 59:2**). Everyone who has reached a point of accountability before God has sinned (**Rom. 3:23**), and is thereby on the path to eternal death in hell (**Rom. 6:23a**), until we “grasp the lifeline” Jesus offers

(**Rom. 6:23b**). Grasping this lifeline requires being born again spiritually (**John 3:3**), as we are baptized and “bury” the old life of sin, rising to walk in “**newness of life**” (**Rom. 6:3-4**). We then hang onto the lifeline by obeying God’s commands for us to the best of our ability moving forward.

If someone was drowning in water and he or she were thrown a lifeline, it would be obvious that he or she needed to grasp onto the lifeline. Without it, the individual would be hopeless.

Yet, few recognize their need for a *spiritual* lifeline. Few realize how lost and helpless they are. Thus, few see the need to give their lives to Christ.

Jesus is “**the way, the truth, and the life**” (**John 14:6**), but we must recognize our *need* for Him and seek Him eagerly.

This would seem a light thing to ask for the opportunity to receive eternal life. The reason this opportunity exists is because “**while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us**” (**Rom. 5:8**).

For anyone who is not faithfully obeying Christ, why not “grasp the lifeline” today by submitting to Him?

For those who *are* faithfully obeying Christ, may we “hang on tight” to that lifeline, and, as the song encourages, “throw out the lifeline” to others by doing what we can to lead others to salvation.

Area Gospel Meetings

Bellair Church of Christ:
July 18 – 22 (with Chuck Bartlett)
Mon-Fri: 7:00 PM

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God's Plan for Saving Man

God's Grace	Ephesians 2:8
Christ's Blood	Romans 5:9
The Holy Spirit's Gospel	Romans 1:16
Sinner's Faith	Acts 16:31
Sinner's Repentance	Luke 13:3
Sinner's Confession	Romans 10:10
Sinner's Baptism	1 Peter 3:21
Christian's Work	James 2:24
Christian's Hope	Romans 8:24
Christian's Endurance	Revelation 2:10

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Words to Consider

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

– Matthew 5:7-9 (ESV)

Prayer List

Holly G
Jerry & Sandy S
Cheryl S
Norma C
Raymond B
Robert C
Doans' Grandson, Wilson
Devin D (Cancer)
Vicki S (Cancer)
Susan F (Cancer)
Christie's Brother, Jerry (Lung Cancer)
Berlyn Y

Daily Bible Reading

July 3 – Job 25-27; Acts 12
July 4 – Job 28-29; Acts 13:1-25
July 5 – Job 30-31; Acts 13:26-52
July 6 – Job 32-33; Acts 14
July 7 – Job 34-35; Acts 15:1-21
July 8 – Job 36-37; Acts 15:22-41
July 9 – Job 38-40; Acts 16:1-21

“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.” – Hebrews 1:1-2 (ESV)

Prayer Leaders

Sunday, July 3, 2022

Bible Study: See
Worship: Bulletin
Evening: Board

Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Assignments

Sunday, July 10, 2022

Reading: See
Announcements: Bulletin
Table: Board
Serve:

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

Invitation:

Clean Building

Sholders

Prepare Communion

Sholders

Upcoming Reminders

Wednesday (6th) adult class:

Ephesians 6:14ff

Next Sunday (10th) adult class:

The Lord's Apostles

Anniversaries

July 11 – Ethan & Lindsay
July 16 – Darrell & Sidney

Birthdays

July 8 – Mark
July 12 – Holly
July 12 – Jessilyn