

Looking For A Church?

Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). When you go out looking for a church to attend, what are you looking for? What are you seeking in a church?

Sometimes you will see a sign or a bumper sticker that says something like this: "Worship in the church of choice." While it is certainly good to worship God (John 4:24-26), it is not up to us to choose what we want and seek what we want.

When you go out looking for a church, do you look for worldly prestige like the Pharisees did (Matthew 23:6)? Do you look for exciting entertainment like Herod wanted (Luke 23:8)? Do you look to be fed with food like those who followed Jesus around (John 6:26-27)? Do you look for someone to accept you in your immoral lifestyle like the church at Corinth did (1 Corinthians 5:1)?

When you go out looking, do you look for a message that is pleasing to you (2 Timothy 4:3-4), a place where you can be in control like Diotrophes (3 John 9-10), or a place where you can hide in the crowd and not get involved (Revelation 2:4-5, 3:1-3, 16)?

Friend, let me encourage you to look for a place that pleases God (Galatians 1:10), a place where you can hear the truth of Jesus (Matthew 17:5), and a place where you can be an active member of the Lord's church. - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Mankind has the opportunity to do wrong, but not the right to do wrong.
- Our past experiences should be a guidepost, not a hitching post.
- Praise makes good men better and bad men worse.
- People who claim to be neutral soon show what side they are really on.
- It's easy to tell one lie, but hard to tell just one.

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Website
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Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

God Uses Water...

The amount of water that God uses in our world is impressive. For example, the human body is approximately 2/3 water. About 60% of our weight is water weight. It takes about 2 1/2 gallons of water each day to live. It takes about 50 gallons of water per person for daily activities. About 100 billion gallons of water are used for crop irrigation each day. Water is most necessary for living.

The earth's surface is 3/4 water with 140 million square miles of oceans (330 million cubic miles of water). The earth's water is always used, but never used up.

Water is most necessary for our environment. About 800,000 gallons of water are needed to grow one acre of cotton. About 100 gallons of water pass through a full grown oak tree each day.

God has placed water as a necessary element in our physical world. But, He also has placed water as a necessary element in the spiritual realm of our life.

Sometimes you will hear someone say: "You all believe in water salvation!" This statement is often made by our religious friends. They imply that they are saved by grace alone or faith alone, and that we (members of churches of Christ) believe we are saved by works and water.

The issue is not: Does water itself save? No, it does not. The issue is this: We are saved by God's plan and if that

plan includes water (among other things like grace and faith), then I must submit to that water.

Baptism is not used by God "to join a church" and baptism is not used by God "to show that you are already saved". So, how then does God use water? Let us examine four purposes of water in God's plan of salvation.

God uses water for **SALVATION FROM COMING JUDGMENT**. In Genesis 6-7, Noah and his family built an ark and were saved by water from coming judgment because the water took them away from the death and destruction of all the world (see also Hebrews 11:7 and 2 Peter 3:5-6).

It should be no surprise to find in the NT that baptism saves (1 Peter 3:20-21; Mark 16:16).

God uses water for **SEPARATION FROM THE OLD LIFE**. In Exodus 14, the Israelites were separated from the old life of bondage in Egypt when they passed through the Red Sea (see also 1 Corinthians 10:2). In Joshua 3-4, the Israelites were separated from the wilderness wanderings when they passed through the Jordan River.

In 2 Kings 21:14, Elijah was separated from his earthly life when he passed through the Jordan River. In Judges 7, Gideon's army was separated at the spring of Harod (see also Hebrews 11:32).

It should be no surprise to find in the NT that baptism is the dividing point, or point of

separation, between the old life of sin, and the new life of salvation (Romans 6:1-4).

God uses water for **RESTORATION FROM DEATH**. In 2 King 5:1-14, Naaman's skin of leprosy was restored after washing. In John 9:1-7, the blind man's sight was restored after Jesus told him to go and wash in the pool of Siloam.

It should be no surprise to find in the NT that the act of baptism puts one into a new, restored relationship (Matthew 28:19; John 3:5; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 3:27; Colossians 2:12).

God Uses Water for **PURIFICATION FROM SIN**. In Numbers 19, the unclean Israelites could be purified (cleansed) with water. In Ezekiel 36:25, the citizens of the Messianic kingdom could be purified (cleansed) with water.

It should be no surprised to find in the NT that baptism purifies (makes clean by washing) by "washing away sins" (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Ephesians 5:26; Hebrews 10:22).

The truth is, we have no right to forbid the water of baptism to anyone who is in need of it (Acts 10:47). The Ethiopian Eunuch in the book of Acts was not hindered by the waters of baptism (Acts 8:36-39), and neither should you be hindered.

Yes, God uses water! Will you let Him save you, separate you, restore you, and purify you with water today? - Chris Reeves