



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXV May 4, 2008 No. 17

Confidence Corner

John F. Board

As we continue on our life long journey of building our faith, let us consider some thoughts regarding the Bible's teaching on baptism. In order to obtain the gift of salvation provided by Deity, one must understand what the Bible means by the term baptism.

Many in the religious world view baptism as important. Where often there is disagreement is over the method of baptism. This happens when men's thoughts enter into the discussion. Consider John Calvin for instance. Although he readily admitted in his work *Institutes* that it was evident the word "baptize" means to immerse and that the early church practiced immersion, he amazingly noted in the same section that whether a person was wholly immersed or simply sprinkled was not important at all; churches should be free to choose what method of "baptism" they employ based upon a diversity of climates. Of course some religious groups also employ the method of pouring for baptism.

All of this misunderstanding could be avoided if man would simply look at how the Bible refers to the method of baptism. Remember, even the religious leaders who believe in sprinkling readily admit the meaning of the word baptism is immersion. The reason they know this is because they have examined the New Testament in its original language. The Greek word *baptizo* is where we get our English term "baptize." The English term "baptize" is not the translation of the Greek word *baptizo* it is rather a transliteration or anglicized form of the Greek (brought from the Greek into the English language almost letter for letter). If the word *baptizo* was translated rather than anglicized, our Bibles would read "He that believeth and is immersed/dipped shall be saved..."

Consider as well that if the Holy Spirit wanted the inspired writers to convey that God approves of sprinkling or pouring, He could have chosen specific Greek words that would have authorized sprinkling or pouring. The Greek language has specific words that would be translated "sprinkling" and "pouring." *Rantizo* is the Greek word that is translated "sprinkling." *Cheo* is the Greek word translated into English as "pour." If the Holy Spirit wanted to teach that God desired sprinkling or pouring as a means of salvation, He could have chosen one of the words mentioned above. The fact that He did not speak volumes. In the area of salvation the Holy Spirit chose the word *baptizo* and by such indicated God's desire that one be immersed as a means of salvation.

Even though men may say something is acceptable to God, I urge you to always look to God's Word.

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

Tract of the Week

"Heaven is Just 4 Steps From Any Place on Earth - Step 3"

Tract three in our series deals with commitment. Commitment is vital in all aspects of life. Think of a child just learning how to walk. Without commitment to get up and keep trying we would all still be crawling around on all fours. We wish to serve God and get to heaven; therefore, we must be fully committed. What is your commitment level?



Thanks to John Board for his uplifting and practical lessons last weekend at the men's retreat. Being a "Real Man" takes sacrifice and dedication. Each year it seems as if some event happens that places a damper on the weekend. One year Mike Greene was in the hospital with e-coli. Stephanie Pack tore her ACL another year. This year we were all saddened to hear of Kevin Nowland's automobile accident. Some one remarked that maybe we should just not have the men's retreat. My feeling is the things discussed and learned will help us deal with the curveball life throws us. Thanks to the Elders for having the foresight to plan and facilitate this event. For those who did not attend you truly missed out on great fellowship and learning from God's word.



Compartments

Life cannot be divided into compartments in some of which God is involved and in others of which He is not involved; there cannot be one kind of language in the church and another kind of language in the shipyard or the factory or the office; there cannot be one kind of conduct in the church and another kind of conduct in the business world. The fact is that God does not need to be invited into certain departments of life, and kept out of others. He is everywhere, all through life and in every activity of life. He hears not only the words which are spoken in His name; He hears all words; and there cannot be any such thing as a form of words which evades bringing God into any transaction. We will regard all promises as sacred if we remember that all promises are made in the presence of God."

William Barclay
Via KneEmail

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *God's Redemptive Plan — Man's Imperative Response, Acts 17:10-12*

P.M. - *Woe to the Bloody City Nahum 3:1-7*

God's Global Flood

How much weight should be given to the question, "was the flood universal?" Despite the overwhelming evidence for God's global flood, some still tout science as disproving it. Since science claims to have a bearing on the question, and since, to many, science is god, the question simply cannot be dismissed by the Christian.

But when one examines the question more closely, it loses some significance. Consider for example, the Pentateuch has been accepted as Scripture, even by the latest dates, for a few thousand years. For a majority of this time, there was no thought given to the flood being anything other than a global flood; the theory that the flood was a local event surfaced approximately 300 years ago. The question "was the flood universal" is a relatively new question.

Many of you have read articles defending the flood of Genesis as a universal flood. The size of the Ark alone provides a good argument for a universal flood. Why would God have Noah build such a large vessel if all he, his family, and animals would have needed to do was migrate to an area that the flood would not effect? The fact that so many cultures record a "Great Flood Story" also suggests the Flood of Genesis was a global flood. Noted archaeologist Howard Vos contends that "on all continents and among almost all peoples of the earth flood accounts have been found." I would like to consider some thoughts, that perhaps you have not considered, that strengthen the case for the flood of Genesis being a global flood.

The real heart of the question for the Christian is what the biblical record reveals regarding the flood. An examination of the English text and further studies in the Hebrew Bible shows the flood account was written in narrative prose; it is a story that the language reveals expects to be interpreted literally.

The flood is in the context of Genesis 1-11 where other events are recognized as universal. The creation was of "the heavens and the earth"—the very basis for the concept of "universal." The fall of man and the consequences of sin were universal. The protoevangelium (the first Gospel—Genesis 3:15) is universal in scope. The Tower of Babel provides the explanation for the post flood global inhabitation.

Consider also the all inclusive language found within the flood account. The term *ha'arets* (the earth) occurs in the flood narrative 46 times. It is the same word used in 1:1 to describe the part of creation that stands opposite "the heavens." The phrase "the heavens and the earth" in the Old Testament, is a definition of everything that exists; it is the English translation of the Hebrew equivalent to "universe" (Aalders 1:52). Hence, "the earth" as used in the flood account is the same area as "the earth" that was created in 1:1. Those who suggest that Moses would have used *tebhel* to describe the "world as a whole" fail to realize that *tebhel* only occurs in poetic texts of the Hebrew Bible as a synonym in parallel with *ha'arets* (the earth), and never in the Pentateuch.

The phrase "upon the face of all the earth" in 7:3 and 8:9 is the exact phrase found first in Genesis 1:29 in the creation context. While a shorten expression "all the earth" can have a limited meaning in other contexts (Exodus 10:5, 15; Numbers 22:5) —in the other occurrences of the phrase employing the same Hebrew word order (1:29; 11:4, 8, 9)—each is clearly describing the entire land surface of the earth.

Other terms like "face of the ground," "all flesh," "every living thing," "under the whole heaven," and "all the fountains," when examined honestly, are clearly universal in nature and refer to God's global flood. The term *ha'adham* (6:5) is used to describe the wickedness of "humankind"—a universal term. This universal wickedness is the reason or basis for the punishment God is going to bring in the form of the flood. In other words, since it is a universal wickedness, it only makes sense that God would use a universal flood as punishment. The Hebrew Bible has a technical term *mabbul* used 13 times exclusively of God's global flood; this term clearly distinguishes God's global flood from all local floods (Hasel 92).

The genealogical records of Adam/Noah, the command "be fruitful/multiply" given to both Adam/Noah, the enormous size of the ark, the mountains covered by 15 cubits, the duration of the flood, the return of the earth to its Genesis 1:2 state, and the NT evidence also are relevant in this study (study passages like Mt. 24:39; 2 Pet. 2:5; 1 Pet. 3:20; Heb. 11:7).

Was the flood universal? If not, consider the implication—the continued existence of local floods in unison with rainbows makes God a liar rather than a keeper of a covenant. The rainbow was a sign that God would never destroy "the earth" with water again. If "the earth" in Genesis refers simply to a local area, then the existence of local floods today, makes God a liar. If God is a liar and did not keep His covenant he made with Noah, then why would anyone believe God would keep any of the promises He has made to man today. Truly this question has implications even for our salvation!

John F. Board
Elizabethtown, KY

News and Notes

DAVID KEISTER has begun another round of treatments for his cancer. **KEVIN NOWLAND** was involved in an accident Friday night and was admitted to University of Louisville Hospital with a broken second vertebrae and bruised lungs. He was released Tuesday. **SUSAN MOLLER**, Jane Curkendall's mother, will have surgery May 8 in Lexington.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Diane Lewis
Neil Burden	J Martin
Larry Clack	Tom Morgan
Elonda Crafton	Herb Pence
W. C. Davis	Marie Rose
Dana Fox	Terry Showers
Howard Gardner	Grace Speer
Bernard Gillim	Wilma Stull
Faye Guess	Barbara Underwood
Nellie Hart	Lonnie Underwood
Kent Lane	Lawrence Wells

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers: Dave Fulbright, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards, Joe Betterton, Myles Brothers, Dale Martin, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Mike Chandler, Nathan Blair, Nathan McClain, Willie Mitchell

Thank You

Howard and I want to thank you for all the nice cards and also for your calls and visits to the rehab center. We appreciate them so much. Thanks especially to the ladies Bible class.

Millie & Howard Gardner

Congratulations

Kyle Pence receives a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from Faulkner University May 2! Amanda Hardesty, daughter of Marvin & Mary Ann Hardesty, graduates May 6 from Auburn University with a doctor of veterinary medicine degree! Betty Bray will receive her Associate in Human Relations degree from Elizabethtown Community Technical College May 19! Michelle Treadway will graduate Magna Cum Laude from Eastern Kentucky University in May with a Bachelor of Occupational Science degree! Mike Parks will receive an Associate in Applied Sciences & Engineering Technology degree from Elizabethtown Community Technical College in May!

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 5/4/08 Canned Vegetables

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

1. Sheldon Lackey	12. Betty Lawson
5. Kyle Clack	Jean McKinney
6. Jim White	13. Christopher Muncy
Samantha Tackett	18. Stephen Ball
7. Avery Walker	21. Nathan Nash
Oleta Stranahan	22. Wilma Stull
8. Tracy Nowland	28. Craig Bartelt
9. Sara Sharp	31. Doris Simpson
10. Ashleigh Fox	Lacey Leverett

Anniversaries

Kelly & Lacey Leverett	May 5
John & Brenna Board	May 11
Dale & Lani Moss	May 15
David & Donna Pence	May 15
Dan & Sharlene Marcum	May 20
Fred & Kathleen Pence	May 28

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **LADIES NIGHT OUT**, Saturday, **May 3**, 4:00 p.m. at the home of Monica Bybee. Bring finger foods and your favorite game. All ladies of the congregation are invited. Prizes will be given for the funniest and/or prettiest hats.
- **CAMP STAFF MEETING (MANDATORY)**, Saturday, **May 10**. All staff members **MUST** attend. The bus will leave the building at 3:00.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **May 12**, at 10:30 a.m. at the building.
- **FAJITA COOKOUT** Saturday, **May 17**, at 5:00 p.m. at the Muncy home. A sign up sheet for food items is posted on the bulletin board. Each family attending is asked to donate \$7 toward the cost of the meat. Please see Shane or Laura for more details.

Attention High School Seniors

Please bring a senior picture to the office to be featured in an upcoming bulletin.

OUR RECORD FOR

April 27, 2008

Sunday Bible Study	127
Sunday Morning Assembly	215
Sunday Evening Assembly	115
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	22
Wednesday Bible Study	121
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,905)	\$6,627

Elder/Coordinator for May
Mike Pence

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: We were the daughters of a man who lost all he had in a test by Satan. Who are we?

Last Week's Bible Question: I was put to death on the very death trap that I built to take someone else's life. Who am I? The correct answer is Haman, Esther 7:9-10. Edna Ashlock, Joyce Pack, Kay Pack, Bloria Taylor, Mary Walker, Betty Bray, Lisa Treadway, Samantha Tackett, and Kay Thomason correctly answered last week's Bible question.

Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to ray.pack@kvnet.org by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Elizabethtown Church of Christ
P. O. Box 652
1211 N. Dixie Ave.
Elizabethtown, KY 42701

Church Office: 765-6446
Fax # 737-0491

Elders:

Ron Carter	358-5792
Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

Ministers:

John Board	763-1677
Ray Pack	982-3460
	cell # 723-7564

Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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Email: churchofchrist@kvnet.org

Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.ETOWNCOFC.ORG

Are You Part of the PARTICIPATION

May 3 — Ladies Night Out
May 10 — Mandatory Camp Staff Meeting
May 12 — Church Workers Workshop
May 17 — Fajita Cookout, Muncys
May 18 — Youth Devo
May 25 — Singing at Atria
June 1 — Youth Banquet

Daily Bible Reading Schedule
1. 1 Chronicles 29:20-30; 2 Chronicles 1:1-4:10
2. 2 Chronicles 4:1-7:22
3. 2 Chronicles 8:1-11:12
4. 2 Chronicles 11:13-15:19
5. 2 Chronicles 16:1-20:13
6. 2 Chronicles 20:14-24:14
7. 2 Chronicles 24:15-28:27

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
P. O. Box 652
Elizabethtown, KY 42702

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