

## Does It Matter What We Obey?

(Continued)

Though Cornelius had believed in God, was devout and prayed always, he was not saved. People who not have been taught what the scriptures actually teach on salvation need to submit to the teachings of scripture and be baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins, just as Cornelius did. Only then can they rest assured of their salvation.

Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments." (Jn. 14:15). If you truly love Jesus, you will submit to His will and obey His teachings. If you have been taught wrong, no matter how sincerely you believed you were doing the right thing, you must turn away from that error and obey the truth of God's word. Be baptized for the right reason and in the right way. You may not be any more dedicated in your mindset afterward than you are right now, but you will be right with God. It definitely matters what you obey. You are at a crossroads. What will you do?

Gary L. Hutchens

<http://www.churchofchrist.com/articles/does-it-matter-what-we-obey>



# The Worker

3108 Hamburg Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Ph. (812) 284-3125

Volume 5 Issue 36

[www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org)

September 4, 2016

## Does It Matter What We Obey?

Does it matter whether we do what God instructs us to do in His word? Many folks would be considered to be good, religious people. They believe in God and believe themselves to be dedicated to Him. But their knowledge of His will is incomplete, because they have a limited knowledge of His word. Many think they're saved, but they were never taught the complete truth on the subject of salvation. As a result, even though they did what they thought was right, and were sincere in what they did, they were not in compliance with God's teaching on salvation.

Many people are taught that all they have to do to be saved is believe in God and Christ, say the sinner's prayer and let Jesus into their heart. While such a plan of salvation is widely taught in denominations, it is not taught in the scriptures. There is no such example anywhere in the New Testament of anyone being saved by saying the sinner's prayer. In fact, what denominations call the sinner's prayer is not found in the scriptures at all. Jesus told the apostles to teach the gospel to everyone, and all who believe and are baptized will be saved (Mk. 16:15-16).

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The scriptures also teach that it is at baptism that a person's sins are washed away by the blood of Christ (Acts 22:16). When asked by many of the Jews on Pentecost what they needed to do, Peter stated, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38).

Further, rather than letting Christ into our heart, the scriptures teach that we must come into Him, and the only means taught in the scriptures of coming into Christ is through baptism (Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27).

While baptism is practiced in most denominations, it is almost always for the wrong reason. For baptism to be true baptism it must conform to what the scriptures teach on baptism. It must be done in the right way-immersion- and for the right reasons- forgiveness, salvation and to come into Christ.

Cornelius was "a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always." (Acts 10:2). But he needed to be taught more fully what he needed to do be saved. God sent Peter to teach him and his household the gospel of Christ (vs. 5-6), and they responded by being baptized (vs. 48). Through that act of obedience their sins were forgiven, they were saved, they came "into Christ," they were reborn spiritually (Jn. 3:5; 2 Cor. 5:17), and the Lord added them to His church (Acts 2:47). They became true Christians!

(Continued on back page.)

### Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

**Deacons** Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,  
Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney

**Pulpit Minister** Eric Welch

**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

### Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

### Schedule of Services

#### Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM  
Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

#### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org)

Email: [church@hamburgpikecofc.org](mailto:church@hamburgpikecofc.org)

### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: God's Role for Women in the Home and Church - 1 Timothy 2:8-15

Sunday Evening: Is Not Working a Sin?

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
Opening Prayer Rick Martin  
Scripture Nathaniel Welch  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Lord's Supper Luke 22:14-23, 39-70  
Message Robby Stocksdale  
Attendant Jerry Montgomery  
Attendant Doug McArthur  
Closing Prayer Clint Smith Sr

#### PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr  
Bible Reading John Keaton  
Selection 27  
Prayer Greg Blanton  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Closing Prayer Ryan Irwin  
*If you are unable to serve, please  
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481  
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

#### AM & PM Services

Announcements Leon Stocksdale  
Lord's Supper Irvin Williams  
Offering Ethan Welch  
Usher Harold Tincher  
Count Offering Joe Sweeney  
Assist Count Art Patrick

#### Last Sunday

Offering \$2,767  
Attendance 91

## **The Blood of Grapes**

**Eric Welch**

Last night I had a dream that I was teaching the book of Acts to a college class. I posed this question, "What is the kingdom?" A student answered, "Jesus turning water into wine" (John 2). "No" would have been my reply because I was thinking specifically that is God's reign in the hearts of men. However, before I said that, a co-teacher behind me affirmed the students answer with "yes." And he was right. The kingdom is Jesus transforming water to wine. It is every sign that points to Jesus as the Messiah bringing His kingdom and changing the hearts of men.

Have you ever found a solution to a problem in a dream when you were not able to think of one while awake? I've done it. As I was teaching the last class Sunday on Genesis, I read aloud from Genesis 49:8-11 about Jacob's blessing on Judah. I wanted to comment on verse 11 off the cuff but I just could not quite remember what I wanted to say. However, the dream about the Acts class with the mention of the wine-to-water miracle helped me remember the connection that I wanted to make with verse 11: "Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes."

The idea of this verse is that the reign of the future king from the tribe of Judah (later called Messiah) will be an age of great blessing. Even the most valuable of plants, the grapevine, will be so plentiful and common that it will even be used as an everyday item such as a hitching post for donkeys. In the era of the Messiah (the Christian dispensation), wine will flow so freely that it will even be used as wash water for clothes. Of course, this poetry is highly symbolic for great abundance that God would bring to mankind through Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ (John 10:10).

The prophets continued this description of the Messiah's reign as an age of great blessing (Jeremiah 31:12; Hosea 14:7 Amos 9:13-14 Matthew, 22.1-14), a time in which wine would flow freely. The turning of water into wine, no doubt, would have caused people witnessing to think of this prophetic expectation of the Messiah. Those reading about it later would think the same.

John says it was a sign. Signs point to things beyond themselves. This sign pointed to Jesus' power to transform and to bring great blessing. In other places, Jesus used wine imagery as a way to describe the phasing out of the old covenant and bringing in the transforming, sin-forgiving power of the new (Matthew 9:17). That change came at great cost in the shedding of Jesus' blood on the cross (Mat 26:28). It is symbolized and memorialized in the blood of the grape His church drinks at the Lord's Supper.

The blessings of the Christ described figuratively as material abundance in Genesis 49:11 are God's transforming reign in our hearts. It is the kingdom, the church (Matthew 16:18). Jesus is the king, the lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5). What blessings in Christ Jesus can you list with the fellowship, favor, forgiveness, peace, prayer, exaltation in the heavenly places, eternal life that you enjoy in Him?

## **Hamburg Pike Happenings**

The elders want to update the congregation regarding requested financial support of Denicio Miranda's preaching in the Republic of Panama. Thanks to the generous support of the congregation on the recent 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday special offering, the elders plan to send \$250 per month for the remaining months of 2016.

On Saturday, September 17, I will be speaking on the topic Daughters of the King at a Ladies' Day in Florence, KY, at the Florence church of Christ. Any ladies who would like to attend and want to carpool are welcome to come along! The Ladies' Day activities will last from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., and both breakfast and lunch will be served. Any ladies wanting to go can see me or Ashley by Wednesday, September 14.

Men of the congregation are invited and encouraged to serve the congregation during the fall quarter by signing up for a Wednesday evening devotional. Devotional should be carefully prepared and 3-5 minutes duration. Please see the sign-up list on the board.

Bible classes for the fall quarter (September, October, & November) are to begin Sunday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Our thanks to and prayers for our Bible teachers. Let's be committed to attend Bible classes and be prayerful about our spiritual growth.

The Monday Night for the Master group will begin meeting September 12<sup>th</sup> at the new time of 6:30 pm. Please create a list of those individuals you are trying to influence for the Lord and we will help to influence them by sending cards, making a phone call or a personal visit if appropriate. Provide the names, address, phone number and the type of contact (card, visit or call) to Harold or Debbie Tinchler. The meal for this meeting will be Pizza. Please keep this good work in your prayers and plan to participate; the Lord's work requires workers.

A congregational fellowship meal is scheduled for Sunday September 18<sup>th</sup> after the morning service. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the foyer.