



The Beautiful Imagery of Baptism

Sunday night I had the great opportunity to talk about baptism with a young lady who has been attending Elmwood for a while. This person had some questions about our views of baptism. We had a great discussion. And yesterday I was blessed with the opportunity to baptize Vickie Donohue. She and her husband Dan have been attending Elmwood for about a year now, and they were my neighbors when we lived in the duplexes at The Vineyards.

These two different opportunities gave me the chance to reflect on the beautiful imagery of baptism found in Scripture. In the Churches of Christ we tend to camp out on Acts 2:38, *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”* That is a powerful passage about baptism. It portrays baptism as a moment of forgiveness, and a time to receive the Holy Spirit. But that is not the only image of baptism used in the Bible. Scripture portrays it as more than this.

In Romans 6 the imagery used is that of death, burial and resurrection. At baptism we are imitating Christ’s own death, burial and resurrection. We are also portraying our own death, burial and resurrection. It is the picture of an old life becoming a new life.

In Galatians 3 we find the imagery of adoption. We clothe ourselves with Christ at baptism so that we can longer be identified as black or white, American or Hispanic, rich or poor, slave or free. Rather, we are identified as Christ and adopted into Abraham’s family. We become heirs of Abraham’s promise.

In Colossians 2 we find baptism being associated with circumcision. Circumcision was an identifying marker. It identified the circumcised as belonging to the community. Paul now says that baptism is our circumcision. It is our identifying marker that we belong to the community of God’s people. It held communal value.

In 1 Peter 3 we find baptism being associated, again, with cleansing. But unlike the cleansing found in Acts 2 (the cleansing of our sins), here Peter suggest that cleansing is of our own consciences. Baptism is a pledge of a good conscience, or an appeal to God for a clean conscience.

What powerful and beautiful imagery used to describe this one act. Baptism seems to be a spectrum of colors. God is good! And let us remember that it is not the water that holds such great power, or the one performing the baptism. God is at work bestowing His wonderful grace upon those who place their faith in Him.

And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. ~ Acts 2:21

-Gilbert

Fellowship in the Gospel

After sanctification it is difficult to state what your aim in life is, because God has taken you up into His purpose by the Holy Ghost; He is using you now for His purposes throughout the world as He used His Son for the purpose of our salvation. If you seek great things for yourself--God has called me for this and that; you are putting a barrier to God’s use of you. As long as you have a personal interest in your own character, or any set ambition, you cannot get through into identification with God’s interests. You can only get there by losing forever any idea of yourself and by letting God take you right out into His purpose for the world, and because your goings are of the Lord, you can never understand your ways.

I have to learn that the aim in life is God’s, not mine. God is using me from His great personal standpoint, and all He asks of me is that I trust Him. He can crumple me up or exalt me, He can do any thing He chooses. He simply asks me to have implicit faith in Himself and in His goodness. Self pity is of the devil, if I go off on that line I cannot be used by God for His purpose in the world. I have “a world within the world” in which I live, and God will never be able to get me outside it because I am afraid of being frost-bitten.

Excerpted from
My Utmost For His Highest
By Oswald Chambers



Andrea Browell had a biopsy on Monday....**Gene High** had cataract surgery Tuesday....**David Brutans** is recovering from surgery for liver cancer....**Ginger Maxwell-Spenard** is home after a short hospital stay last week....**John Ruckh**, Sally Smith's brother, has been diagnosed with T cell non-Hodgkins lymphoma and will begin treatment soon....Continue praying for **Beth Holt, Lynia Coates, Dick Waterstraat, Elaine Crowder, Melissa Willison, Jim Kiefner, Bud Darby, Kaden Koebecke, Sara Postlethwait, Roger Birky, Delores Hill, Clifford & Betty Farner, Annie Crowder, Diann Doty, Jan Lucas, Charles Moore, Hattie Coffel, Dorothy Walters, Eugene Zinn, Valley Stockton, Irene Sims, Marie DeWoody, Paul & Argie Verett, and Minnie Scott.**

In the military: **Joe Newman** (*Naval training*), and **Brent Kaufman** is serving in Iraq.

Women's Ministry News

The 3rd Elmwood women's Newsletter was e-mailed November 5. There are hard copies available in the Farris Foyer. If you know of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please write their e-mail addresses on the list on the women's bulletin board.

Our first **game night** will be next **Monday, November 16, at 7:00 PM** at Patty Vice's house. We'll play buncu. If you plan to come, sign up on the bulletin board so Patty will have an idea of how many to expect.



Christmas Hang-ups

Elmwood's Christmas Musical, "**Christmas Hang-ups**," has rehearsal this **Wed., November 11, at 6:20 PM**, for children in **Pre-K through 6th grade**. On Sunday, lunch is provided. Younger children will meet from 12:45 until 1:30; the main characters (older children) will stay until 3:00.

Welcome To Elmwood Church of Christ, How Can We Help You?

We're new in town and have not worshiped here before. Where is the sanctuary? We don't know anyone so can we sit toward the back? Do you have a nursery? Where are the restrooms? What classes are available for us and our children and where are they located? What are they studying? When does "church" begin/end?

Providing visitors with helpful answers to these questions along with extending a friendly welcome hand shake at the church door can go a long way in showing guests that they are welcome and we are interested in having them return. If you would like to help with this effort, you will soon have an opportunity.

Eagle Scout Honors

Seth Mullen has his **Eagle Scout** ceremony at Elmwood on **December 5 at 3:00 PM**.

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**Prayer
OF THE WEEK**

November Prayer Focus: Give Thanks!

I Chronicles 16:8: "*Give thank to the LORD, call on his name; make known among the nations what he has done.*" Pray and give thanks to God for all he has done.



The **food pantry** is always in need of personal items: **soap, shampoo,**

deodorant, toothpaste & tooth-brushes, and especially toilet paper. These items are not available at the Food Bank. More and more people are visiting our food pantry every week. If you would be interested in volunteering to help, notify John Stafford (474-8478).

Shults-Lewis Milk Money



Over \$5,500 has been given to Elmwood's annual Shults-Lewis Milk Money fund. If you haven't had the opportunity and wish to donate, you have until Thanksgiving to make a contribution.

November 8, 2009

Class: 174 Worship: 313

Contribution: \$9,641



Saving Soles

Saving Soles is a ministry that many students, including our own Ben Stafford, have decided to support and are soliciting your help as well. This project is designed to bring shoes and Bibles to needy Christians in the Philippines. These people walk miles to church, many with no shoes. The Bibles will assist them in reaching out with God's word in their own communities. Ben is focusing on the shoes part and is asking that you bring (to the Women's Classroom) any new or "gently used" shoes you might like to donate. They would like for all shoes to be delivered to the building by November 24, the night of the Thanksgiving Devotional, so that they will have time to box them up before heading back to school. If you are "friends" with Ben on Facebook, you can see the information and/or ask him questions. Thanks in advance for your support.

Saving Soles Goals:

1. To educate people about the needs in the Philippines
2. To unite Christians in a common cause
3. To promote personal involvement
4. Pave the way for evangelise
5. Strengthen the abilities of congregations in the Philippines to reach out in their communities.



Early Registration Deadline Fast Approaching

I am hearing lots of our group talking about "The Veil," Winterfest 2010. As always, next year's event (just a couple months away) will be in Gatlinburg, TN – February 19-21. Because Winterfest has sold out the past few years, it is very important for us to get our tickets, etc., as soon as possible. The early registration prices (postmarked by December 1) are: Passes - \$26, Concert - \$10, and T-shirts \$10. After Dec. 1, prices go to \$32, \$12, and \$12 respectively. Of course, there is the risk of passes not being available. With that in mind, please plan to have at least your money for your pass to me by November 24. Bring your friends, bring your parents...it is always a great event!

- Lee



Vickie Donohue, former neighbor of Gilbert and Kate, was baptized Monday evening. Her husband, Dan, one of her sons, and her mother were there to witness her baptism. Vickie currently is attending Ivy Tech and enjoys having her 3 grandchildren around. Her address: 40 Cabernet Ct., Lafayette 47905. Phone: 491-4797. Congratulations, Vickie, and welcome to our family!

Write a 2010 Spiritual Adventure Article?

We have a tradition of printing a weekly article on the back of our newsletter titled, "*Spiritual Adventure.*" To continue this tradition, we need volunteers to write these articles. Please sign up using the yellow attendance card on Sunday morning, e-mail office@elmwood-church.org or call the church office at 765-447-2874. You will be notified of your writing assignment well in advance. *-Carol Bell*

We are in need of a volunteer to teach the 2's & 3's class on Wednesday nights, and a volunteer for the 4's & 5's on Wednesday nights beginning with the first Wednesday in December. If interested, please contact Joe Ruhl (463-7012).



Pack the Pulpit will continue thru November 29th. This is an opportunity for you to contribute to the food pantry ministry. Bring all of your pantry contributions (foods and personal items) and place them on the stage. Our goal is

to make it so there is no place to stand on the stage on November 29th. Our number of food pantry visitors always seem to rise during the winter months. This is an opportunity for you to make sure our pantry does not go empty.



November 11, 6:20 PM....Christmas Musical rehearsal

November 11, 7 PM....Bible classes for all

November 15....Guest speaker, **Mike Stroud**

November 15, Christmas Musical rehearsal:

12:45-1:30 young ones; until 3:00 for older kids

November 25....NO EVENING CLASSES

December 12....Christmas For Everyone distribution day

Read:
Daniel 3-Hosea 8;
I, II, III John

2009 Spiritual Adventure

Week 48: November 23-29

Old or New?

Jesus prayed that His people might be unified, and yet we probably have in this country over 2000 denominations and more being formed every year. The problem is partly caused by replacing God’s plan with something dreamed up by men through selectively choosing those verses of scripture that appeal to them. Additionally, for many years if not centuries, man has come up with his own “scriptural” plan by mixing some of the Old Testament worship with a portion of the New thus allowing for a great flexibility in molding a ceremony to serve his purpose.


The Old Law was designed for that special race of people that God created for only one purpose. That purpose was to bring us our Redeemer, Savior, guide and companion to set up a kingdom for His subjects that will last forever. That kingdom is spiritual and we become a part of it when we are baptized into Christ.

In our New Testament readings this week, John wrote about this spiritual kingdom and how we “should be called children of God!” (I John 3:1). In the three letters of John, John wrote to expose false teachers (I John 2:26) and to impart God as the word of life (I John 1:2); God is light (I John 1:5); God is the atoning sacrifice for our sins (I John 2:2); and God is love (I John 4:8). John writes that we should not want to live in sin, but that when we sin we have the atoning sacrifice that purifies us from all sin. This comes through a sincere desire to do the will of God and to keep His commands.

-Amos Miller

Weekly Schedule	Elders	World Missions
Sunday Worship 8:00 a.m. Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Life Groups 6:00 p.m. Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	Bill Bell 463-1139 Joe Mathews 474-8369 Joe Ruhl 463-6822 Rick Swensen 463-6822 Don Vice 471-8653 Staff Ministers Gilbert Kerrigan 418-3652 Lee Porter 463-6993 Phil Travis 447-2874 Office Sherry Marks, Manager 447-2874 Carol Bell, Secretary 447-2874	Kevin Chambers World Christian Broadcasting Anchor Point, Alaska 99536 Loren and Penny Hollingsworth Phuket, Thailand 83000 E-mail: lholly54@yahoo.com Bren and Cheryl White P.O. Box 245 New Market, MD 21774

Our Vision:
 Knowing Christ,
 Making Christ Known.

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