

# NSD Notes

*For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more. (1 Cor. 9:19)*  
Volume 1 No. 13 March 29, 2009

### Services

- Bible Study ..... 10 a.m.
- Morning Service.....11 a.m.
- Evening Service.....6 p.m.
- Wednesday Meeting.....7 p.m.

### News @ NSD

## WELCOME VISITORS!

#### REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR:

- **Ernest Peeples** – deployed in the Persian Gulf.
- **Dema Franklin** – recuperating at home; she is making progress and looking forward to being back out to worship.
- **Martha Holloway** – recurring back and heart condition.
- **Jeanne Lynne** – had a setback and was back in the hospital.
- **Vicki Barton's** mother, Lisa, will be undergoing surgery next month and is facing a 10 month recovery period.
- **Chuck Holloway** (Ken's brother) and **Benjamin Hoskins** (Daniel's Dad).
- **Yedid Minjares** - is visiting Nichole in Northern California.
- **The Wells family** – travelling back from Arizona this week;
- **Jason Henderson** – travelling for work.
- **Perette Godwin** – on a cruise with her grandmother.

## THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BAPTISM

**Mark Larson**

**Part 1**

Clearly, baptism is no mere symbol or ritual. Baptism is what enters us into union with Christ! Baptism into Christ establishes a real spiritual connection to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Baptized into the Death of Christ:** Baptism is not just about receiving the forgiveness of our sins (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**), it is our union with the death of Jesus! All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death (**Rom. 6:3**). Jesus the Savior died for our sins. Sin is what brought Him to the cross. Rather than a continued desire for sin after baptism, there should be a hatred and rejection of sin, the very thing that caused Jesus to die in the first place. *"And He himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Pet. 2:24)*. Baptism into Christ is absolutely essential to putting to death our sins: *"For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin."* (**Rom. 6:5-6**)

**Buried with Christ:** The word baptism literally means "immersion." Every person, including Jesus, who was baptized was immersed (not sprinkled or poured) in water (e.g., **Mark 1:9-10; Acts 8:38-39**). That is why the apostle Paul says to the Christians at Rome: "... We have been buried with Him through baptism..." (**Rom. 6:4**). A burial best represents baptism. There is great spiritual significance to being buried with Jesus. Just as a real burial involves a real death, so does baptism (which is a "burial") result in a real spiritual death to sin. Baptism is not merely a "good work" nor is it to be done as a public display of becoming a member of a local church. Baptism into Christ is essential to putting to death our sins!

**Raised with Christ:** Baptism into Christ introduces us to a new life! Baptism is necessary "so we too" may rise to live a new life. Just as Christ was raised or "born again" from the dead (**Rev. 1:5; Col. 1:18**), we too are raised or "born again" to a new life after baptism (John 3:3, 5). "Newness of life" entails all spiritual blessings that are given in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**). Specifically, we are no —————>

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. (**Rom. 6:3-4, NASB**)

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All are welcome to our worship  
and study meetings!

*... singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with  
thankfulness in your hearts to God. Col 3:16*

My praise shall be of You in the great assembly;  
I will pay My vows  
before those who fear Him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
Those who seek Him will praise the LORD.

Let your heart live forever!  
All the ends of the world  
Shall remember and turn to the LORD,  
And all the families of the nations  
Shall worship before You.

For the kingdom is the LORD's,  
And He rules over the nations.

*Psalms 22:25-28*

O worship the Lord  
In the beauty of holiness  
Let us exalt his name together  
Amen, Amen.

*Frank B. Earle; R. J. Stevens*

This is the day the Lord has made  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it  
Let us rejoice, Let us rejoice  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it

*Leon Sanderson*

## [Spiritual Significance of Baptism]

longer "dead in sin" (**Eph. 2:1-2**), but instead "dead to sin" and "alive to God in Christ Jesus" (**Rom. 6:11**). There is "newness of life" because each Christian is now a new person in Christ, living life in service to God, not sin: "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (**2 Cor. 5:17**). Only those who have been baptized into Christ are "in Christ" and are living the new life in Him.

**Salvation Through Christ:** "And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you — not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience — through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (**1 Pet. 3:21**). This straight forward passage about baptism makes it perfectly clear that baptism is for our salvation. Those who dismiss baptism as non-essential or optional, ignore this plain statement of Scripture.

Baptism does not in any way diminish the achievement of Christ on the cross for our sins. Instead, baptism is a commandment we must obey to gain access to the saving power of Jesus. Notice what makes baptism powerful: Not the water itself ("the removal of dirt from the flesh"), but the appeal we make to God "for a good conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (**1 Pet. 3:21**). Jesus is still the means of our salvation, eternal life is still a free gift (**Rom. 6:23**), we are simply meeting the Lord's condition for salvation as commanded in Scripture: "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

*From the Charlottesville Beacon, Volume 1, Issue 21 February 12, 2006  
Part 2 and conclusion of this article in next week's Bulletin*

## TRUE POWER EQUALS MEEKNESS

We desire power to be able to get what we want. We think of the power to rule over people, power of money and power of control. You say we have received your power to be a witness. The power you desire me to be strengthened with is a power that will allow me to apply meekness instead of arrogance, humility instead of pride, patience instead of impatience, love instead of bitterness. God, the power you want me to have is your life of grace in behalf of others flowing through me, one of your people.

*Being strengthened with all power according to his glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience. (Colossians 1:1).*

*John Maisel, © 1982 Regal Books*

**ELDERS:** Dan Austin, Robyn E. Hamilton

**DEACON:** Matt Wells

**MINISTER:** Dan Austin