

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

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Baptismal Sandwich

My ideal sandwich is a couple of slices of ham, one slice of tomato, lettuce, pickles, and some mayonnaise sandwiched in between two pieces of wheat bread. Sounds great right now! Another great sandwich is revealed in the book of Acts; i.e., the "Baptismal Sandwich."

The book of Acts reads much like an English term paper that you and I had to write in High School composition. Acts begins with a theme and a thesis statement. The theme is the forgiveness of man's sins and the thesis, "*Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him*" (Acts 2:38-39 – 1901 ASV). Luke develops this thesis over the next twenty chapters as he reveals the conversion of many. The last time we read about the subject of baptism is in Acts 22:16 where Paul is rehearsing his conversion and recalls Ananias telling him, "*Why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name.*" There you have it... two pieces of bread in the baptismal sandwich.

Acts 2:38 mentioned the purpose of one being baptized as does Acts 22:16. People are to be baptized "*unto or for*" (Greek - *eis*) the forgiveness of their sins (see use of the Greek word *eis* at Matthew 26:28 for a comparative analysis). The two pieces of bread that completely covers the subject of baptism make it clear that baptism is for the remission of sins and thereby necessary for one's salvation. Luke writes nothing before Acts 2:38 and nothing after Acts 22:16 about the command to be baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

There are seven other examples in the book of Acts; however, sandwiched in between these first and last pieces of bread. These seven examples of conversion mention baptism; however, they do

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Withdrawal (I Cor. 5:1ff; II Thess. 3:6, 14):

We are sad to announce that the church, being gathered together in the name of Christ, has had to withdraw from Jason York and Sarah Wills. Please do keep trying to contact and study with these two that their souls may be saved.

Please keep the following members in your prayers:

We are sad to announce that **Paul T. Morgan, Nina Gray's great Nephew**, died in a car accident this past Sunday morning. Please keep the Gray's and Morgan family in your daily prayers.

Cindy Gray had the first of four periodontal surgeries last week and is doing fine as well.

Melissa Witherspoon's gall bladder surgery went very well and she is doing great.

Kasey Robertson's surgery went very well too and she is doing great.

Last Sunday of the Month Singing:

Get with one of the song leaders to request your favorite songs!

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)
Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

not say that it is for the remission of sins. When the Samaritans were converted Luke records, *"But when they believed Philip preaching good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women"* (Acts 8:12). Luke records the account of the Ethiopian eunuch's conversion saying, *"And as they (Philip and the eunuch) went on the way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch saith, Behold, here is water; what doeth hinder me to be baptized? And when he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him"* (Acts 8:36-38). Saul (Acts 9:18), Cornelius (Acts 10:47-48), Lydia (Acts 16:15), the Philippian jailor (Acts 16:32-34), the Corinthians (Acts 18:8), and the disciples of John (Acts 19:4-5) all were mentioned as having been baptized; however, the reason is not mentioned. Some erroneously conclude that if Luke did not write, in these seven cases, that baptism is for the forgiveness of sins then it must not be necessary.

One very important part of the baptismal sandwich is the conversion of Saul. When we read of Saul's conversion at Acts 9:18-19 the text states, *"And straightway there fell from his eyes as it were scales, and he received his sight; and he arose and was baptized; and he took food and was strengthened."* Nothing is said of baptism being for the remission of Saul's sins; however, it is necessarily inferred. This inference is confirmed at Acts 22:16. Saul's conversion included being baptized for the forgiveness of his sins. Why would two cases of conversion, the first and last, in the book of Acts include baptism yet the other seven cases do not? Luke's thesis statement at Acts 2:38 would have little significance if it did not emphatically prove that not only those on Pentecost but all eight proceeding cases also illustrated the fact that baptism is for the forgiveness of one's sins.

There you have the baptismal sandwich. No disrespect is intended by using the illustration of a sandwich. The Holy Spirit, by means of Luke, undoubtedly stated the purpose of baptism first and last in the book of Acts for a reason. No one should question the reason for baptism any more than they should question the reason for Jesus shedding his blood on the cross for our sins (see the Matthew 26:28 comparison). Luke stated the purpose of baptism first at Acts 2:38 and was not bound by any laws of grammar to re-state that purpose each time the subject is brought up. Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins?

John C. Robertson

Anxiety, Anger, and Depression

Introduction:

Anxiety, anger, and depression are emotions that we all experience from time to time. Not all anxiety, anger, and depression are bad. “Some of our everyday anxiety, depression, and anger go beyond their useful function” (Psychology Today / pp. 221). God has; however, created us with these emotions for a purpose. Problems occur when these emotions are out of balance in our lives. This lesson shall examine both sides (good and bad) of these emotions we experience.

I. Anxiety:

A. What is anxiety (Greek *merimnao*)?

1. “To expend careful thought, to concern one’s self” (Moulton 263).
2. “To care for, be anxious about (worried and distressed about some uncertain event or matter), think earnestly upon, scan minutely” (LS 499).
3. Consider definition in article: “What You Can Change & What You Cannot Change” (Psychology Today / pp. 221).

B. Jesus commands us not to be anxious (Matt. 6:25-33).

C. Paul experienced anxiety (II Cor. 11:28)

D. Did Paul sin (I Pet. 5:7)?

E. “Do not overlook what your anxiety is trying to do for you”

II. Anger:

A. What is anger? Greek *orgizo* = “anger [feelings of extreme displeasure; rage, wrath], indignation, wrath” (Moulton 291).

B. Solomon said, “*Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry; for anger resteth in the bosom of fools*” (Eccl. 7:9). What is Anger?

C. The apostle Paul wrote, “*Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:*” (Eph. 4:26).

D. “Do not overlook what your anger is trying to do for you.”

III. Depression:

A. Depression is “low in spirits; dejected... dismal or gloomy... to be lower than one’s surroundings” (AHD 383). Solomon gives a great definition of depression by stating, “*A glad heart maketh a cheerful countenance; But by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken*” (Prov. 15:13).

B. The broken spirit of a man has a way of drying up the insides. Again, Solomon wrote, “*A cheerful heart is a good medicine; But a broken spirit drieth up the bones*” (Prov. 17:22).

C. “Do not overlook what your depression is trying to do for you” (see Isa. 57:15; Ps. 51:17; II Cor. 7:7-10).

Conclusion:

We have been created with various emotions. It is thereby natural to feel shame, embarrassment, anger, anxiety, and depression at times in our lives. These emotions; however, must be kept in check (see II Pet. 1:5ff). People ought to feel anxiety so that they will not act or say the same foolish things over and over. People ought to feel anger when they or another sins. We all ought to have heavy hearts when sin is in the lives of people. Problems will surely come when these emotions are permitted to be directed in the wrong areas and for prolonged times. Paul said “*...let not the sun go down upon your wrath*” (Eph. 4:26). These emotions cannot get the better of us. We must exercise self control. God gave us these emotions for a reason and that reason is the salvation of our eternal souls.