

**SUNDAY MORNING**

**Announcements**  
Clay Morris

**Song Leader**  
Jack Calvert

**Lord's Supper**  
Jerry Schnelle Cole Meador  
Randy Ellis

**Prayers**  
Rodney Ellis Joseph Barry

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**WEDNESDAY EVENING**

**Announcements**  
Daniel Allgor

**Song Leader**  
Clay Morris

**Prayers**  
Bryan Garlock Jon Barry

**Invitation**  
Joseph Barry

**ABOUT US**

**Elders**  
Jack Calvert Rodney Ellis

Jon Barry Mike Davis  
Clay Morris

**Evangelist**  
Bryan Garlock

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**SERVICE TIMES**

**Sunday**  
Bible Study .....9:30 A.M.  
Worship .....10:15 A.M.

**Monday (Zoom)**  
Bible Study .....7:00 P.M

**Wednesday**  
Bible Study .....7:00 P.M.

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**GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION**

**Hear** the word of truth ..... Romans 10:13-17

**Believe** the truth..... Hebrews 11:6; John 8:24

**Repent** from all sins .... Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38

**Confess** the name of Christ ... Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**Be Baptized** in His name ..... Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Colossians 2:12

**Walk** in newness of life and **be faithful** unto death ..... Romans 6:1-4; Revelation 2:10

God turns the impossible to favorable, the mess to a message, trial to triumph, a test to testimony, and victim to victory.

Nothing is impossible for God (Matthew 19:26).



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**"Priest Resigns After Two Decades of Performing 'Invalid' Baptisms"**  
Bryan Garlock

In a Newsweek article titled, "Priest Resigns After Two Decades of Performing 'Invalid' Baptisms," the writer states that "Father Andres" resigned "with a heavy heart" due to transgressing "the Gospel and the tradition's requirements."

What was his sin? "He incorrectly performed baptisms" because he "was found to have used the wrong phrasing." When he would baptize individuals, he would say, "We baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." How was he supposed to say it? "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Did you catch the error? He said "we" rather than "I" and that, according to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (an organization that defends Catholic traditions), made all the baptisms he performed "invalid." In other words, the thousands of people he has baptized over the past two decades were not scripturally and traditionally baptized. Therefore the faithful had been deprived "of

the grace of baptism." The article states that to remedy this egregious situation, the offended parishioners will have the ability to schedule another baptism so that the Holy Father approves.

I have faced some similar allegations. For example, I once baptized an individual "in the name of Jesus" (as I generally do). A brother told me I was wrong because I did not baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Was this individual deprived "of the grace of baptism?" Likewise, in the above article, the baptizer "was found to have used the wrong phrasing." Is there, then, a phrase or formula that is necessary to recite when baptizing someone?

First, we should recognize that if "I baptize..." is a commanded phrase that the baptizer must utter at the point of baptism, we must say that. The problem is the phrase "I baptize..." is not commanded. If a formula is required, it is another condition

## FAMILY TALK

Continue to remember the health concerns of **Maxine Burnham, Francine Davis, Gerald Eaton, Joey Avance, Jerry Schnelle, Bonnie Allgor, Pat Buls, Sonny & Cathy Monaghan, and Pete Rowland.**

**Beth Ellen** is weak and still struggling with oxygen issues. She is having some trouble with AFib, too.

**Francine Davis** is struggling physically with her fracture neck, and mentally with various issues. She misses everyone dearly and wishes she could be with us.

**Nancy Rowe** could use prayers and support as she is in the long and stressful process of adopting **Kava.**

to salvation. In other words, for a person to obtain salvation, they must hear the gospel, believe in Jesus, repent of their sins, confess their faith, and at the point of baptism, the baptizer must say the magic words correctly, or their salvation is invalid. Thus, a formula is an addition to the conditions to be saved. And it is like the Pharisees who argued, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." (Ac 15.1)

Secondly, it is not required for the baptizer to say a formula, if anything at all. Where is the command that the baptizer must say anything for the baptism to be valid? Don't

misunderstand; the baptism must be "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." But this is not the same thing as requiring these exact words. To press this point further, since different phrases are used in Scripture, we cannot be dogmatic about what to say at the baptism. What we mean is our Lord says to baptize "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (Mt 28.19), but Peter says to be baptized "in the name of Jesus" (Ac 2.38) and Paul and Peter baptized people "in the name of Jesus." (Ac 8.16; 19.5) Did the apostles disobey or contradict Jesus? Of course not! Since they used different phrasing than Jesus, we can know Jesus was not instructing that particular wording at the point of baptism as a formula. Additionally, it shows us that the apostles believed baptism "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" (the Godhead) is baptism "in the name of Jesus" (who is also God).

Since this is the case, there must be another reason for attaching "in the name of" to baptism. We find our answer in the same text our Catholic friends get their supposed formula: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." (Mt 28.18) The phrase is a matter of submitting to God's authority, but even more so, it is about entering into a covenant relationship with the Godhead. Under the Old Testament, God often attached His name to the covenant. The idea was, "This covenant is between you and Me. I am your God, and you are my people." In other words, it was the matter of the people identifying with the God of Israel.

Thus, by being immersed in God's name, we pledge to preserve covenant faithfulness to Him and be conformed to the divine nature (2 Peter 1.3-11; Romans 6), which identifies us with God.

And those who surrender to the Lord in baptism only do so because they recognize His authority.

Concerning our point about a required statement at the moment of baptism: if anything is said, it is for the benefit of the one being baptized and for any witnesses present. It reminds the baptized that "I submitted to Jesus my Lord for the forgiveness of my sins."

Finally, a formula makes it about the words rather than the individual's faith or even the working of God in baptism. In other words, if the words required are not said, then the baptized one is immersed, believing that God is washing away their sins, saving them, and adding them to the body of Christ, only to find out the baptizer did not recite the right words.

And this is the danger of traditions. The tradition keepers remove hope and confidence and bind things God never bound. BG

## Don't Place a Period Where God Has Placed a Comma

Jon Jorgenson

The Bible is filled with events that would have been hopeless if He had placed a period. However, God provided hope when He placed a comma.

Moses and the recently freed Israelites were trapped between the Red Sea and the powerful Egyptian army. Out skilled and terrified, they had no way of escape. COMMA Yet, God rolled back the waters of the Red Sea and saved His people (Exodus 14).

The trench around the walls of Jericho was 27 ft. wide and 9 ft. deep. Trained Canaanite soldiers were perched on the 17 ft. high and 5 ft. thick wall. COMMA Yet, God's army, led by Joshua, climbed over the destroyed wall to defeat the mighty army (Joshua 6).

The Midianites had terrorized the Israelites for seven years. Gideon, a judge and military leader, prepared over 29,300 men to put a stop to the violence. Before the battle 22,000 men returned home, unwilling to face the powerful enemy. Then God disqualified an additional 7,000, leaving 300 men to face 135,000 + Midianites. COMMA Yet, armed with trumpets, torches and empty jars, God led His army to victory.

David faced a mighty giant COMMA then won (I Samuel 17).

Esther faced the powerful King COMMA then saved her people (Esther).

Daniel faced the hungry lions COMMA then lived to write about it (Ch. 6).

Peter was a coward COMMA then faced persecution to preach the Word.

Paul first fought against God's people COMMA then survived beatings to bring souls to Christ.

Jesus was humiliated, beaten, hung on a cross and died COMMA then He was resurrected to sit in Heaven on the right hand of God.