

August 4, 2013



WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday: 10:15 AM Bible Class
 11:00 AM Morning Service
 Thursday: 7:30 PM Mid-week Service

Skype Services @ sgbcpnj

WEB ADDRESS

Be sure to bookmark our website for daily articles and audio messages:
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WEEKLY MEETING LOCATION

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Rocky Hill, NJ 08553

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

10:15 a.m. Service

Opening Hymns

Scripture Reading

Message

Closing Hymn

Nursery Today: Michelle L Thursday: Debbie D.

A puritan preacher named Thomas Brooks made this true statement concerning faith in the successful, sin-atoning, Lord Jesus Christ of holy scripture, "He that believeth shall be saved, let his sins be ever so great; and he that believeth not shall be damned, let his sins be ever so little."

BAPTISM: WHAT IT IS AND IS NOT

Mark 16: 15: And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Nothing is more damning for a sinner than to imagine that by an act of their own, such as baptism, they have contributed to their salvation. Baptism is not salvation; baptism never saved anyone. The watery grave does not make Christ's blood effectual any more than faith does. Sin is not put away by baptism. Baptism is not how we are born again, dedicated, rededicated, or any such thing. Christ by himself purged the sins of his people—salvation is of the Lord. (Heb 1: 3; Jon 2: 9) So what is baptism?

A Public Confession of our Sin

By baptism we are confessing that the Spirit of God convinced us that we are sin. (Jn 16: 8-9) Those baptized by John the Baptist "were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." (Mt 3: 6) Believers confess that we are so sinful, that it is through the gospel that the

Holy Spirit has entered into us and given us life where there was no life before. (Jn 3: 3; Jn 6: 63) By being baptized we are not regenerating ourselves; there is no such thing as “baptismal regeneration.” We are confessing that we did not choose God, but God chose us and drew us to Christ, revealing Christ in us by his Spirit through his gospel. (Jn 6: 44; 2 Th 2: 13-14)

A Public Confession of Faith in Christ

By baptism we are saying that we believe on Christ, our Prince and Savior, who has given us repentance and forgiveness of sin freely by his grace. (Acts 5: 31; Eph 2: 8) On the cross, with the sin of God’s elect laid on him, Christ Jesus as the Substitute of his people, was immersed in the righteous judgment of God in the place of his people by which God himself satisfied justice for his people (Psalm 69: 1-2; 18: 4; Lam 3: 54; Ps 42: 7; Rom 3: 24-27) By immersion in the watery grave, we publicly confess that we believe our old man of sin died and was buried with Christ. (Ro 6: 3-4; Lu 12: 50) When we come up out of the watery-grave we are confessing that we believe when Christ arose from the grave to the throne of glory we arose in him. (Ro 6: 4-6) We are confessing that we believe that by his death, Christ accomplished the purging of our sins by himself and freed us from sin. (Heb 1: 3; Rom 6: 7) “*There is* therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” (Rom 8: 1)

A Public Confession of Commitment to Christ

By baptism we are publicly confessing our commitment to Christ, to his gospel, and to our brethren. We are confessing that we are now walking with Christ as a resurrected child of God in newness of life. (Ro 6: 8-14) When we arise from the grave of water, we declare publicly “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Gal 2: 20) “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Gal 3: 27) “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor 5: 17; Gal 6: 14-16)

Why You Should Not and Why You Should Be Baptized

You should never be baptized simply because you never have or because you feel guilty or because someone else is being baptized. Never should you be baptized to please someone else. Faith is personal. Confessing Christ in believer’s baptism must be because God has given you faith in Christ.

After Philip preached the gospel to the Ethiopian Eunuch, “As they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.” (Acts 8: 36-38)

If God has called you to faith in Christ and you believe that all your salvation is the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, apart from your works, then you should confess him in believer’s baptism. It is the Lord’s will. Christ said, “Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God: But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.” (Lk 12: 8-9) Ananias said to Paul, “And now why tarriest thou? Arise, be baptized.” (Acts 22: 16)

BAPTISM IS OBEDIENCE TO CHRIST

Matthew 16: 16: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

Baptism in this verse stands for obedience. Christ is saying he that believes and is obedient to the Lord Jesus, beginning with believer’s baptism, shall be saved. Baptism is put there to tell us what kind of faith—obedient faith—because water baptism is one of the public acts of obedience the Lord Jesus commands. By baptism, among other things, we are confessing that we are under the rule of Christ as Lord, walking in newness of life. (Rom 6) Many have been saved who were never baptized—the old testament saints, the thief on the cross—but all who have been saved have had a new heart created by God wherein they were obedient to God our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. If the thief had not been about to die, he would have been baptized.