

# The Old Paths

Volume 21, Issue 29

September 14, 2014

## “After Our Gospel Meeting”

Jarrod Jacobs

**B**rother Raymond Castillo has just finished a good week with us. The gospel was preached, and we are confident much and everlasting good will come from these efforts (I Cor. 3:6). Seeing that this is the case, what can we do to make sure that this week does not merely “fade away” into memory?

Let us take some time and see what we can do with the word that was preached by brother Castillo last week.

### Water The Seed

The seed that has been planted this last week is the word of God (Lk. 8:11). Just as water is necessary for physical life, so also water is necessary for our spiritual lives. This is one of the reasons that we read, “*I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase*” (I Cor. 3:6). After the apostle Paul had planted the seed (Word of God), Apollos encouraged these brethren by teaching them more about the will of God and encouraging them to continue in the truth. To further illustrate this, remember that Christ encourages us to drink of the “*living water*” so we will never thirst (Jn. 4:10, 14, 6:35; Matt. 5:6). Therefore, let us water the seed that has been planted so that it can take root and grow strong

in the minds and lives of all who heard the truth!

### Practice What We Have Learned

Our efforts in this gospel meeting will be in vain if we do not practice what we have learned. With this in mind, consider Ezra. Ezra is a man who stands as a good example of practicing what he learned. The Bible says, “*...Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments*” (Ezra 7:10). Notice the order in this verse: 1) Ezra set or prepared his heart for the work. 2) Ezra studied the law of the Lord. 3) Ezra did it. 4) Ezra taught Israel God’s statutes. Ezra got the order right! He did not try to practice or obey something he had not learned. Nor was he disobedient to what he had learned! He first learned it, and then he did it. The description of Christ on earth is very similar to Ezra (Acts 1:1). Since we have the examples of both Ezra and Christ recorded for our learning, may we do the same! Once we know what God’s word says, let us do it. Let us not be hypocrites! Now that we have heard God’s word, let us practice it!

### Teach Others The Truth

Notice that Ezra did not stop at simply practicing what he had learned. He also taught others the truth he had learned (Ezra 7:10). He did not teach what he did not know. He did not teach others to

do something that he refused to do. He obeyed God, and then taught others to do the same. In the New Testament, we see the apostle Paul doing this (I Cor. 9:27). Of course, the greatest example is Jesus. Notice that He not only obeyed God, but also taught the truth. Luke wrote, “*The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach*” (Acts 1:1). We have a responsibility to teach others the truth that we have learned. Again, Paul wrote, “*and the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also*” (II Tim. 2:2). Jesus told His disciples to “*teach all nations*” (Matt. 28:19), and “*preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mk. 16:15). Is there any doubt that Jesus thinks teaching others is important?

### Pray

Prayer is a powerful weapon in the arsenal of the Christian. It is a vital part of the armor of the Christian (Eph. 6:18). Are we using it as we should? Let us do as the letter to the Ephesians says and “*pray always*”. Let us pray to God for an open door to spread the truth we have learned this last week (II Thess. 3:1). Pray that we might take the things we have learned and apply them to our lives, so that we are not like the Hebrews who had learned, but needed to be taught again (Heb. 5:12-14). Pray for opportunities to speak with others about the truth we learned this week so we can bring more lost people to Christ. Let us spend time in prayer thanking God for His word, and for the fact that it is understandable to men (Eph. 3:4). Put simply, let us “*pray without ceasing*” (I Thess. 5:17).

Now that the meeting is over,  
WHAT WILL YOU DO???

# How Are We To Be Baptized?

Aric Russell

**O**ne of the most “controversial” subjects today is the subject of baptism. What does baptism really consist of? Is it necessary for one to be baptized in order to be saved? Who should be baptized? Is baptism something one does in order to be saved, or because they are already saved? For this study let us answer one of these questions and let us ask how one is to be baptized.

As we begin, let us first make one thing clear. Baptism is commanded in the New Testament. We can look at passages such as Acts 2:38, or Acts 10:48 to see where baptism is commanded today. Notice something else with me if you would. Commands must be obeyed. The things God has commanded through the scriptures are things we must learn and apply to our lives (I Jn. 2:3-4; II Jn. 9-11).

Many today would say that sprinkling or pouring water on someone is all that is needed in order to be baptized. However, the Bible at no time makes comment to baptism as a sprinkling or pouring. The Bible shows baptism as complete submersion or a burial. In John 3:23 we find where John was baptizing at Aenon near Salim because there was much water there. If they were just sprinkling or pouring water, there would be no need to have much water. We also read about the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. In verse 36 the text states that they came unto some water. Verse 38 says that both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water,

and then verse 39 says they came up out of the water. The text here does not say they came unto water and Peter sprinkled the eunuch and they departed away from the water. No, the text is very clear for us to read and understand. It says they came unto some water, went down into the water, and then they came up out of the water. If this is not proof enough that baptism is a burial, a complete submersion, then look at Romans 6:4. The text there states very clearly that we are buried with Him by baptism. Let me ask you this. If you go to the cemetery and see someone sprinkle dirt on a dead person’s coffin, would you say the dead person is buried? The same is true with water baptism. If someone sprinkles water on someone’s head, they are not buried or completely submersed in water.

The scriptures as we know are breathed out by God and are profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. (II Tim. 3:16-17) Knowing that these scriptures are given by God, we would be wise to know and understand them. Yes, God has declared baptism as a burial.

# Betrayed

Friend, I stand in judgment now  
And feel that you’re to blame somehow.  
On earth, I waited with you day by day,  
And never did you point the way.

You knew the Lord in truth and glory  
But never did you tell His story,  
My knowledge then was very dim,  
You could have led me safe to Him.

Yes, I knew He’d made the earth,  
But knew not of that second birth.  
And now I stand this day condemned,  
Because you failed to mention Him.

You taught me many things that’s true.  
I called you “friend” and trusted you.  
I learn, now that it’s too late,  
You could have kept me from this fate.

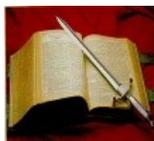
We walked by day and talked by night,  
And yet you showed me not the Light.  
You let me live, and love, and die,  
And knew I’d never live on high.

Yes, I called you “friend” in life,  
And trusted you in joy and strife.  
And yet, on coming to this end,  
I cannot, now call you “my friend.”

### Editor’s Note:

Brethren, are we truly being a “friend” to those who do not know the Lord?  
[See: II Timothy 2:2; I Timothy 4:6; I Peter 4:11]

Your Bible questions answered ...  
[www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994](http://www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994)



**I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!**  
Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.  
Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY

### Meeting Times:

- Sunday Bible Study - - - - - 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study - - - - - 7:00 p.m.

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