



Messiah's death (Acts 8:32-33), and **“preached Jesus to him”** (Acts 8:35). What did Philip say? It must have had something to do with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, as we can see in the response of the Ethiopian: **“Look! Water! What prevents me from being baptized?”** (Acts 8:36). The Ethiopian recognized that baptism needed to be done if he was going to align his life with the Savior's will!

Conclusion

The connection between the gospel and baptism is irrefutable! Baptism allows us to model ourselves after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Refusing to be baptized is refusing to acknowledge our need to become a new creature in Christ. I beg you to consider your situation: have you been baptized into Jesus' death and raised up in the likeness of His resurrection? If not, can you truly say that you have obeyed the gospel?



to the gospel begins with a recognition of that we must mirror Christ's death, burial, and resurrection through baptism.

You see, baptism is only necessary for those who desire to be obedient to the gospel of Jesus Christ. When Philip encountered the Ethiopian eunuch, he began with Isaiah's prophecy of the

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Welcome Visitors

**We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.**

● **Let us know if you have any questions.**

ISSUE

17.5

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

February 1,
2015

Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM

10:20 AM

6:00 PM

Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter

Jeff Nunn

Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Steve Dixon

Jack Langley

Neil Ledbetter

Brady McAlister

Walker McAnear

Lance Purcell

Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope

Andrew Dow



Obeying the Gospel

By Andrew Dow

In Paul's second letter to the Thessalonians he penned these sobering words, **“The Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus”** (2 Thessalonians 1:6-8, NASU). The message is simple: Jesus is returning to punish the wicked. The ones who receive the Lord's wrath are those who (1) do not know God, and (2) do not obey the gospel. Therefore, those who know God and obey the gospel will not incur His wrath.

I'd like to draw your attention to the idea of obeying the gospel. You see, many religious people today claim to “know God,” and they believe that is enough to get them into heaven. Many religious people are repulsed by the idea that any kind of obedience is actually necessary for salvation. Yet, Paul told the Thessalonians that Jesus would punish those **“who do not obey the gospel.”** The idea of obeying the gospel is seen throughout the New Testament (cf. 1 Peter 4:17; Romans 10:16 [NKJV]; 2 Corinthians 9:13). Obeying the gospel is obviously extremely

important for anyone who desires to be on God's good side, but what exactly does it mean to obey the gospel?

What is the Gospel?

The first question we need to ask is simply this: "What is the gospel?" After all, one cannot obey what he or she does not know. Vine states in his exegetical dictionary, "The Eng. word gospel... is the equivalent of *euangelion*." He defines "gospel" and "euangelion" as "good news" or "good message." While this may be interesting, it is still

not very specific. After all, we could come up with lots of things that we would describe as "good news." But what is **"the gospel of our Lord Jesus"** (2 Thessalonians 1:8)?

If you are even slightly familiar with the books of the Bible, you may already be aware that the first four New Testament books are frequently referred to as "the Gospels." A cursory overview of their contents will show that they contain the story of Jesus' life. While they all have material that is unique to their author's perspective, they all unanimously tell of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Is it possible that these events in Jesus' life are the good news?

Paul wrote, **"Now I make know to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved..."** (1 Corinthians 15:1-2). This gospel (good news) that Paul preached is the means through which the Corinthians were saved! So what is the message that Paul preached to them? **"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared..."** (1 Corinthians 15:3-5).

The message that Paul presented was the SAME message that the four Gospels unanimously recorded and it is the SAME message that we must obey today! How then does one obey a historical event?

The Gospel and Baptism

Read carefully Romans 6:1-7—**"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that**

grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? 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, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin."

In this wonderful passage, Paul very clearly articulates what baptism is, and what baptism does. He begins with this question: *does God's grace give us license to sin?* His answer is an emphatic, "No!" After all, Paul explains, Christians are those who have died to sin. This is when Paul explains exactly what took place in baptism. Baptism is the symbolic burial of the old man of sin. We must put our sinful man to death and bury him deep in the water mirroring Christ death for sin and burial in the ground. Finally, just as Christ was resurrected from the dead, we are arise out of the water to live a new life in Christ. This is the core of the gospel: death, burial, and resurrection!

At this point, it might be significant to point out that while the gospel primarily refers to the events

involving Christ's death, burial, and resurrection, it can also be used in a more generic sense. For instance, before Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection occurred, He and His disciples were preaching the **"gospel of the Kingdom"** (Matthew 4:23; 9:35; 24:14; etc.). Although this message would not have included the final events of Jesus' life (Jesus had not yet died), the gospel of the Kingdom and the gospel of Jesus Christ are essentially the same thing. The gospel of the Kingdom was the message that the Kingdom (i.e., rule or authority) of God would be established and all must obey it. The gospel of Jesus Christ is the message that Jesus conquered death and therefore has authority to direct every aspect of our lives. In both cases the gospel encompasses the whole of New Testament teaching. But obedience

