

A Superficial Reading of Mark 16:15-16?

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Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
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“And he said to them, ‘Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned’ (Mark 16:15-16).

When Jesus spoke, honest “people were hanging on his words” (Luke 19:48). Let’s do the same...

Jesus said, “*Whoever...*” What a promise! These are words of hope for the worst of sinners and for every sinner (1 Tim. 1:15, 1 Cor. 6:9-11).

Jesus said, “*Whoever believes...*” I’m not surprised. All the way through the New Testament, faith is the key to salvation and more (John 3:16, 20:30-31; Rom. 1:16; Acts 10:43).

Jesus said, “*Whoever believes and...*” Some things just go together. A bow and arrow, a bat and ball, peanut butter and jelly—some things just go together. No wonder we keep finding this same connection when we keep reading the New Testament (Acts 8:12; 16:30,31,33; 18:8).

Jesus said, “*Whoever believes and is baptized...*” What did Jesus mean by “baptized”? Baptism requires plenty of water (John 3:23). When the Ethiopian eunuch learned about Jesus, it made him want to be baptized. He went with Philip down into the water and came up out of it (Acts 8:38). When Paul discussed the meaning of baptism, he described it as being buried and raised with Christ (Rom. 6:3-4, Col. 2:12). Jesus was talking about immersion in water.

Jesus said, “*Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...*” Did Jesus put all these words together randomly, or should we pay attention to their order? In this passage the gospel is preached and heard, then the gospel is believed, then the believer is baptized, and then salvation is received. The NASB puts it well: “Whoever has believed and has been baptized will be saved.” Jesus never said, “Ask me into your heart,” “Pray the sinner’s prayer,” or any such like. Jesus authorized baptism that by faith seeks salvation (Acts 2:38, 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21).

Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, *but...*” The rest of the sentence only makes emphatic what Jesus has already said.

Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but *whoever...*” If the first “whoever” affirms that Jesus makes a promise no matter how bad we have been, this “whoever” issues a warning no matter how “good” we think we have been or how sincerely we have gone about our spiritual business (Eph. 2:8-9).

Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever *does not believe...*” Believe what? Jesus and his words—the gospel; facts, promises and conditions (John 3:16-18). Why didn’t Jesus also say, “Whoever is not baptized will be condemned”? Why would he have to say that? He has already said what saves. Baptism without faith is meaningless, and whoever does not have enough faith to do what Jesus says and be baptized does not have faith that saves (Luke 6:46).

Jesus said, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe *will be condemned.*” To disbelieve is to be condemned already (John 3:18). Condemnation is a judicial decree, followed by the exaction of the sentence. The sentence is to endure the wrath of God eternally (1 Thess. 1:10).

In an otherwise helpful book, Warren Wiersbe writes that “A superficial reading of Mark 16:15-16 would suggest that sinners must be baptized to be saved” but that this is a “misrepresentation” (*Be Diligent*, p.154). Have we read the passage superficially? Has Jesus misrepresented himself? If I read it fast, it sounds like sinners must be baptized to be saved. If I read it slow, it sounds like sinners must be baptized to be saved. Why? That’s what it says!

What do you need to do today because of what Jesus says in Mark 16:15-16?

Danny Boggs

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Kay Anderson, Travis Bell, Carol Bessman, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Becky Cobb, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tammy Crawford, Lisa Daniels, Joe and Teresa Freund, Pete Griffin, Coral Haggard, Gaele Jackson, Molly Jackson, Beth Johnson, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Lyn Pendergraft, Charlie Phillips, Mebyl Privett, Tina Rasbury, Connor Reiboldt, Murray Riley, Lawrence Sanders, Rylee Schroeder, Harold Speir, Edith Toney.

Coral Haggard will have surgery on Wednesday.

Apologies for the **bulletin** being late this week due to the weather and some illness.



Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. Last week we helped an immigrant family that has recently settled in our area. If you know someone who needs help, contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.

Devo and Donuts is for students of all ages. Join us in the activities center at 7:00 Tuesday mornings. Bring a friend. 

When you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

Please remember to fill out a green **involvement form**.

Several of our teens attended the **TriState Youth Series** in Vinita on Sunday evening.

Today's Sermons



A.M. *I Will Never Leave You Nor Forsake You*
(Heb. 13:5, Danny Boggs)

P.M. *What's "Mission" in Your Life?*
(Jason Geibler)

Some of our members, including Danny, are attending the annual **lectureship** at Freed Hardeman University this week. "He Went About Doing Good: The Compassion of Christ in Luke" is the theme this year. Many of the sessions can be viewed by going to their website.

Men's Breakfast will be Thursday at 7:00 at Braum's. The snow delayed this from last week, so don't miss the opportunity to meet with your brothers this week.

Olympics-themed Family Game Night at 6:00 this Friday in the activities center. It was rescheduled due to the weather. Sign up on the bulletin board by Wednesday to bring food inspired by the cuisine of a specific country. If you haven't signed up because you don't know what to bring, Google it and you will find foods from all over the world with recipes provided. You are asked to bring your favorite board and card games. There will be fellowship, food, and fun for everyone.

There will be a **wedding shower** for Madison Deree and Jackson Collinsworth next Sunday at 1:30 in the activities center. Their wedding is May 28. They are registered on Amazon and at Target.

Wednesday Family Meal will be on February 16. The hostess groups of Jennifer Daniels/Natalie McInturff and Heather Reiboldt/Ginger Murray will be providing a baked potato bar. Please sign up in the foyer.

Tucker and Abigail Anderson are expecting a **baby boy** soon. There is a basket set up in the foyer if you would like to leave them a gift. They could use baby wipes, Huggies diapers and baby laundry detergent.

Ladies' Seminar is March 11 - 12. There are flyers and postcards you can give or send to friends at the welcome desk. There are some postcard stamps available, as well. Ladies, please plan to attend and invite others. It will be a very inspiring time.

Girls in grades 7 - 12, see Bethany or Madelaine if you are interested in going to the **Ruth Rally** in Batesville, AR on April 1-2. Early-bird registration is \$15.

Horizons at Freed Hardeman University is July 3-8. Current students in grades 7 - 12 can register online now. Let Caleb know if you plan to attend.

Neosho Christian School's Benefit Banquet will be Saturday, April 30 at the Neosho Civic. Dan Meers, KC Chief Mascot will be the speaker. Call the school to reserve your spot.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

This Wednesday

AM Opening Prayer: Darren Pierce
AM Closing Prayer: Tucker Anderson
Communion Prayers: Josh King
PM Opening: Taylor Keith
PM Closing Prayer: Bob Murray

Announcements: Tim Murray
Singing: Peter Wald
Invitation: John Deffenbaugh
Opening Prayer: Jackson Collinsworth
Closing Prayer: Elijah Boggs

RECORDS

1-30-22

1-31-21

Bible Study	121	119
AM Worship	171	166
PM Worship	104	102
Wednesday	snow	105
Contribution	\$7,346.65	\$9,281.40
Budget	\$8,250.00	\$8,000.00