

## John's Baptism of Repentance

By Dan Jenkins

The appearance of John the Baptist introduced a religious act that was unknown before his time. It was the immersion of an individual in water in order to bring about the remission of sins. Jesus asked the Pharisees the question, "The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?" (Matt. 21:25). Their answer shows just how new it was. Some have sought to say that it was part of Jewish rites which involved water, but such could not be true for they could have answered Jesus that it was from Judaism and had been done for years.

The truth is that John was sent by God (John 1:6), and his baptism was part of the plan to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. It was not a ritual, a religious act. It was tied directly to faith. Those Pharisees said that if they say from heaven, Jesus would ask them, "Why did you not believe him?" (Matt. 21:25). Baptism is directly connected to hearing God. Submission to baptism is motivated by faith, believing God's message.

John's baptism was also joined to repentance. It was a "baptism of repentance" (Luke 3:3). What does this mean? It acknowledges the source from which baptism comes. I am a man of Alabama, that is where I come from. Submission to John's baptism came from hearts that had repented.

John's baptism was not only linked to faith and repentance, but God made it part of receiving the remission of sins (Mark 1:4). The fact that John taught individuals to be baptized to have their sins removed is precisely the reason John first refused to baptize sinless Jesus. Multitudes heard John preach the truth that Jesus was coming to bring judgment against sinful Israel. He was coming with an axe, a winnowing fan and a baptism (immersion) in unquenchable fire (Matt. 3:10-12). They knew they were sinful, and that God was just in bringing judgment.

On the other hand, the Pharisees were part of some who "justify themselves" (Luke 16:15) and rejected that the judgment of God was just. Read these words carefully. "All the people heard him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him" (Luke 7:29-30).

Never forget that the baptism brought by Jesus was a message from heaven, tied directly to faith, repentance and the remission of sins. To reject it is to reject the will of God. Soberly consider these questions. The baptism brought by Jesus—where was it from? From heaven or from men? The Lord still has the axe, the winnowing fan and immersion in fire. If you have not submitted, you are rejecting God's will!

### Serving AM & PM today and next Sunday AM:

Sunday Rotation	April 23, 2023 AM	April 23, 2023 PM	April 30, 2023 AM
Greeter	Tom Muter		Jerry Thompson
Announcements	Owen Whittington	John McGiffin	Jason Bang
Song Leading		Owen Whittington	John McGiffin
Opening Prayer/Usher Left	Owen Whittington	Duane Kemp	Chris McGiffin
Lord's Supper Comments		Tom Muter	Duane Kemp
Scripture Reading	Seth Arrell		Tom Muter
Sermon	John McGiffin	John McGiffin	
Closing Prayer/Usher Right	Tom Muter	Jerry Thompson	Seth Arrell

## Things you should know about...

We would like to send donations to the Disaster Relief Fund quarterly. Our last contribution was \$1,000.00. If you want to contribute, mark it as "DRF" or give the money to Jason.

The next donation will be sent after the end of June.

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Cory Clark 4/24

Ezra Rohr 5/6

Isaiah Rohr 4/28

Mackenzie Cruze 5/6

Marjorie Seiber 5/1

Laura McGiffin 5/8

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## Happy Anniversary!

*Tim & Dianna Bang 4/30*

*Doug & Marjorie Seiber 5/13*

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*Ladies Bible Study - The God of All Comfort*

*THIS Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:45pm*

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*Ladies you are invited to a Ladies/Mother/Daughter Tea*

*May 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am*

*Please see Chelsea or Stephanie to grab an invitation to give a lady you'd like to bring with you! Also, RSVP by May 10<sup>th</sup>.*

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May 21<sup>st</sup> - Brief Men's meeting after AM services

If you have anything that needs addressed, please see John or Jason.

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Please call or email John (jmcgiffin.yayo@gmail.com) with any prayer requests or announcements you have for the congregation.

**This week's Bible Verse**

“Preserve me, O God, for in you I put my trust.” Psalm 16:1

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**Lord's Supper Reflection**

*That We Might Not Perish but Have Eternal Life*

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.” John 3:16-17

**Offering Meditation**

*Lay up your Treasure where your Heart is*

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:21

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**Remember in Prayer:**

- \*Our Country & leaders
- \*Phyllis Caldwell - encouragement
- \*Rena Morgan - Shut in, health
- \*Ernst & Helen Sherrill (Bro/Sis in Christ from TN) - shut ins with ongoing health issues
- \*Larry Bey - Parkinson's
- \*Orville Thompson (Jerry Thompson's dad) - health
- \*Sally Westover (Carrie Thompson's mom) - health, comfort
- \*Maxine Jones (Laura McGiffin's mom) - having issues with her vision and dementia
- \*Debby Braefield (Alena Brown's Aunt) - health
- \*Caroline Stine - health
- \*Rosalee Yoder - neck/shoulder
- \*Bill Wallace (brother at Tipp City Church of Christ) - having treatments for an autoimmune disease
- \*Allen Woodward (brother at Cassel Hills Church of Christ) - has cancer

- \*Cathy Degarma (friend of McGiffins) - dealing with dementia
- \*Marlene McCans (Jerry Thompson's aunt) - failing health
- \*Craig Inman (Jason Bang's friend) - having surgery for cancer
- \*Arlene (Carol Kemp's sister) - recovering from knee replacement surgery
- \*Carter Buckingham - needing an ultrasound on spleen/stomach area to find cause of pain
- \*The Bang's travelling this weekend

**How can we be praying for YOU?**

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**Attendance and Contribution Record**

**Sunday, April 16**

Bible Classes 32  
 AM Attendance 35  
 PM Attendance 17

**Wednesday, April 19**

Bible Classes 23  
 Contribution \$

# Welcome to the Greenville Church of Christ



**April 23, 2023**

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Morning Bible class: 9:30am

Sunday Morning Worship: 10:30am

Sunday Evening Worship: 6:00pm

Wednesday Evening Bible Study: 7:00pm

**Minister, John McGiffin**

4599 Children's Home Bradford Rd

Greenville, OH 45331

[www.greenvillecoc.org](http://www.greenvillecoc.org)

We are blessed that you have chosen to worship with us today!  
 If you are visiting, we would love to have you back with us again. Please take a moment to fill out a visitor's card and let us get to know you.