

**Test your Bible Knowledge**

1. *The angel of the Lord instructed Joseph to call Mary's son Jesus, for He would:*
  - a. restore Jerusalem
  - b. free Jerusalem from sin
  - c. save people from their sins
  - d. show people the way to Jerusalem
2. *According to the book of Mark, Jesus commanded the sea to be still:*
  - a. as He walked toward the boat, from the shore
  - b. immediately after He got into the boat
  - c. while Peter was attempting to walk on the water
  - d. without leaving the boat
3. *The Prodigal Son's brother was evidently somewhat:*
  - a. happy
  - b. self-righteous
  - c. detached
  - d. happy and sad

**Scriptures:**

- 1) Matthew 1:21
- 2) Mark 4:35-41
- 3) Luke 15:25-32

-Fred Singleton

**Private Bible studies available  
anytime!!**

**Schedule:***Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM**Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM**Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM**Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:00 PM***Jefferson City Church of Christ**

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***"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16***

**Persuading Men to Obey God  
Regarding: Baptism Part 1**

One cannot read the Bible without reading about the plan that God has revealed to save man. Scriptures are clear regarding what one must do to be saved, and those who are honest and willing to obey can know what God requires of man to be saved.

Many people are confused on the subject of baptism and a host of other subjects that pertain to life and godliness because there are many false teachers *helping people to misunderstand the Bible*. There are preachers who will say just about anything about water baptism except what the Bible says about it.

The following passages of scripture are plain enough for any honest, accountable person to understand.

1. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16)

2. Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38)

3. Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.' (Acts 22:16)

4. Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just

as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. (Romans 6:3-4)

5. There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, (1 Peter 3:21)

In spite of these and other plain declarations of God's word, there are many people who make various objections to baptism, and try to prove with these *objections that baptism has nothing to do with being saved from sin; that it has nothing to do with one's going to heaven.*

Denominational preachers, desperately try to get around what God has said on the subject! These objections are not made because the Bible is not clear on the subject of baptism, but are made because those who make them are either ignorant-(unlearned) of what the Bible teaches, or do not believe what the Bible says about baptism.

A brother in Christ Overton Basil made this statement in reference to objections to baptism.

"It is exceedingly unfortunate that these objections are made, and unfortunate that gospel teachers have to spend so much time repelling and refuting such objections; this time they could otherwise effectively use in telling people how to become and be Christians. It does not take much time to teach the average individual the positive truths as to how to become a Christian, but usually much time has to be consumed in "cutting out the weed" of error so as to provide room for the truth. Some people say: "Just preach the truth and let error alone." To say such would be like saying to a farmer: "Just plant your corn and leave the weeds alone." I know that getting the weeds out of the way is just as important at planting the corn. It would be folly to plant the corn without getting the weeds out of the way."

If it be the Lord's will, I would like to examine the objection that baptism has nothing to do with being saved from sin; that it has nothing to do with one's going to heaven. Let us be fair and honest as we search the scriptures together. - Fred Singleton

## Christians Have a Godly Vision: Part III Bible study on discipleship.

Justin Martyr was a philosopher converted to Christ and eventually put to death because of His faith. He succinctly explains that the philosophies of men were taken from the prophets of God then perverted whereby the philosopher claimed originality. This is only one example of men taking the good things of God and perverting them into something evil.

So it has been done with "vision." God created mankind. And, we should not think it strange that we are creatures of vision. When used properly, vision is good, moral and godly. But too often men have implemented the power of the mind to accomplish evil - usually motivated by greed.

Remember that the word "vision" has several meanings. The words from which our English Bibles were translated denote Divine revelation. "Vision" in the Bible does not have the meaning usually assigned to it in our philosophic vernacular.

Solomon said: "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he" ([Pr. 23:7](#)). Space does not permit elaboration upon the specific context of this Scripture. But here Solomon reveals that a man's actions are dictated by his heart. Although a man may deceitfully appear to be someone he is not, his true character is within his heart - not in his members.

Jesus likewise teaches that it is not the physical that defiles a man, but that which is in his heart ([Matt. 15:11; 23:25-28](#)). This does not mean that we are not responsible for our actions, but it means that our heart controls our body. Therefore Jesus said of false prophets: "You will know them by their fruits" ([Matt. 7:16](#)). And Paul says that

those walking in the Spirit have the fruit of the Spirit ([Gal. 5:16-26](#)).

Therefore, in a very general sense all people are people of vision - this is how our minds work in relationship to our bodies. The difference lies in that God's children appeal to His word and thus have a godly vision resulting in godly living.

Through Isaiah God clearly teaches us that we cannot appeal to the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of men to formulate a godly vision. God says: "'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My Ways,' says the Lord. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts'" ([Is. 55:8-9](#)).

Therefore, everyone coming to God must change their vision. A man must change his vision from the humanistic philosophies of men to think, and thus live, according to the will of God. In our Twentieth Century philosophical vernacular we may say that he must have a paradigm shift, he must change his vision. But in the Bible it is called repentance. Repentance is a change of heart that results in an external change of action. Jesus said: "but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" ([Lk. 13:3](#)).

The Bible is full of examples of people who repented (paradigm-shift, change in vision) toward God. On Pentecost (Acts 2) the apostles preached to people who had previously cried out for the crucifixion of Jesus. The proud ignored the message declaring that the apostles were drunk with new wine. But others took to heart the gospel that day and repented - they changed their vision from the Jesus who deserved to die to the Jesus who is Lord and Savior. Those who were cut to the heart Peter commanded to "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" ([Acts 2:38](#)).

If you are a child of God, you have changed your vision from the philosophies espoused by the world to the vision taught by God in His word. Therefore the world hates you ([Jn. 15:18-19](#); [1 Jn. 3:13](#)). And, you are occasionally tempted to change your vision back to the world of sin (e.g. peer pressure). Understanding this, I pray that you will stand firm in the Lord with a godly vision. -Allan McNabb