

March 15, 2026

KENNEWICK CHURCH OF CHRIST



The Essentiality of Baptism in Acts 2:38 is Inescapable

And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, contortionists are often a favorite act at a circus, as they often twist themselves into reality-defying shapes and positions. While that is entertaining, it is anything but entertaining when some individuals today are like contortionists when it comes to the subject of the essentiality of baptism for salvation—they twist themselves into reality-defying positions to avoid the truth so plainly taught in Scripture. Let's examine the teaching of one verse—Acts 2:38

The essentiality of baptism for salvation is the answer that Jesus commanded to give. The reason that Peter included baptism in Acts 2:38 is because Jesus' Great Commission demands baptism to be made a disciple (Matt. 28:19), to enter a new relationship with God (Matt. 28:19) and to be saved from sins (Mark 16:16). Peter could not leave baptism out in response to the question of "What to do" (Acts 2:37) and be faithful to the requirements given by the Savior and Lord. That's why he preached that baptism must be done "in the name of Jesus Christ"—His authority demands it (Matt. 28:18).

The essentiality of baptism for salvation is just as essential as the essentiality of repentance. Jesus had also commanded repentance for salvation in the Great Commission (Luke 24:47). So, under direct guidance of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4; John 14:26; 16:13), Peter gave heaven's answer to the question, and he used the coordinating conjunction "and" to inseparably tie repentance and baptism together as equally grammatical, equally weighted, equally essential conditions to obtain forgiveness of sins. One cannot successfully argue that baptism is not essential without logically also removing repentance as essential. God made the two stand or fall together.

The essentiality of baptism for salvation is demanded by the use of the preposition "for." The Holy Spirit chose a specific word to show the God-given purpose of baptism—it is "in order to" obtain the forgiveness of sins. The Greek word "eis" means "motion into a thing, entrance into, purpose, direction toward a goal." Jesus used the very same sentence structure in Matthew 26:28, when He said that His blood was "shed for many for the remission of sins." His blood was NOT shed because sins had already been forgiven (as many want to argue that baptism is done when sins are already forgiven), but Jesus used the same word to say that His blood was being shed "in order to" forgive sins, denoting direction toward a goal, emphasizing the purpose.

To argue that baptism is not essential to obtaining forgiveness of sins requires one to twist himself into positions and arguments that defy the clear teaching of Scripture. Let us stay true to God's Word and simply speak as the Bible speaks. (Con't on page 4) ~David Sproule

Keep these Dates in Mind	Birthdays and Anniversaries	
03/01 Monthly Potluck 03/10 Hand and Foot get together 03/14 Men's Business Meeting	Addison McCown 3/3 Shirley McLaughlin 3/4 Sammie Engelke 3/7 Doris Pennington 3/15 Raylee Woodward 3/21	
Today's News	Bible Studies	
	Adult Bible Classes (Fellowship Hall) Sunday am (9:30a) – 1st Timothy Wed pm (7:00p) – Minor Prophets	Ladies Class Ladies class - Thursday 11:00 -12:30. Survey of the O.T.

For us to remember:

Jim Preston, Sandi Gray, Shannon Mendoza, Lyn Gigar, Queca Woods, Shauna (Ila Steven's granddaughter) , Jonni Marcotte, Joe Marcotte, Freddie Garza (Danny's cousin), Terry Brown, Lupe Mendoza, Tamara Zog, Doreen Martineez, Carlos Soto, Chris Romero, Pat Lindsay, Karen McBurney, Tami Pennington, Nate Perkins, Granny Perkins, John Dawson

Artheta Maxwell died Thursday. Please keep her family in your prayers as they lost both mother and father this year.

Judy Ward was in the hospital this last week due to hernias. Also, her aFib was 200 so they shocked her to bring it back into rhythm. She has an infection, so they started her on antibiotics. Continue to keep **Naomi and baby** in your prayers

**Your positive action combined with positive thinking
results in success**

Shiv Khera

Date	Opening Prayer	Song Leader	Communion Thought	Lord's Supper	Closing Prayer
This week	H. Jones	J. Mendoza	D. Mendoza	L. Moore G. Keever	D. McLaughlin
Next Week	J. Mendoza	L. Moore	D. Mendoza	L. Moore K. McCown	B. Lafferty

Is Your Cup Half Empty or Full?

In Paul's description of the fact that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil, there is a I want to discuss the well-known idiom that asks whether the cup is half empty or half full. A person who sees a cup as half full is usually more optimistic and focuses on what is already present in the cup. Someone who sees the cup as half empty is more pessimistic, focusing on what is missing from the cup.

What is your perception of the cup? More specifically, how do we perceive our lives and react to the situations that happen to us?

Half-full (optimistic) people have a positive outlook and are hopeful about the future. This positive view can help people see the good in situations and even help influence others to do the same. While viewing things as half-empty (pessimistic) can sometimes be realistic, it may also lead to negativity and discouragement.

When the road of life is easy, we can view the cup as half full. When challenging or difficult times come, we can easily become discouraged and view the cup as half empty. We may start to question God about why this is happening.

When we face difficult situations that we don't understand, one of the best things to do is to trust in God. "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Romans 8:28). How do we learn to trust God? By studying his words more thoroughly. Verses like Proverbs 3:5-8 remind us to "trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."

Things will happen in life that will make our cup look more empty than full, but no matter what we are going through, we have to keep our outlook on life focused on God. God knows we are challenged at times, and we must trust he knows what is best for us. He use these difficult situations for the completion of his works.

The last question we must ask involves internal thought. Are these challenges just a random occurrence due to living in a broken world, or have our life decisions or benevolent discipline brought them on? "Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that good and bad come? Why should a living man complain, a man, about the punishment of his sins?" (Lamentations 3:38-40). Let us test and examine our ways to make sure we are still on the Christian path forward. When the cup begins to feel more empty than full, just remember God has made our cup runneth over with the hope of heaven (Psalm 23:5). ~Jeff Snyder

Wednesday Night Devotional					
Date	Song leader	Devotional	Date	Song leader	Devotional
03/04	D. Mendoza	J. Mendoza	04/01	J. Mendoza	H. Jones
03/11	J. Mendoza	B. Lafferty	04/08	L. Moore	D. Mendoza
03/18	D. Mendoza	L. Moore	04/15	D. Mendoza	J. Mendoza
03/25	L. Moore	J. Wilson	04/22	J. Mendoza	B. Lafferty

