



The One God

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

In Ephesians 4:6, three characteristics of the "one God and Father" are revealed. First, He is the Father "of all," including Jews and Gentiles (Romans 3:29-30). Second, He is "above all." Jesus taught that the Father is "in heaven" (Matthew 6:9; 23:9), and Isaiah showed how He "sits upon the circle of the earth" (Isaiah 40:22). Third, He is "through all, and in you all." A similar statement in 1 Corinthians 8:6 indicates that God possesses this characteristic because He is the Creator of everything: "But to us, there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him."

We can know that God exists by observing the various objects He has created. According to Psalm 19:1-6, the objects in the heavens declare a message that any person can hear, regardless of his language. This universal message is that God created these heavenly bodies. The evidence for God's existence is so overwhelming that David said, "The fool has said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1).

To know about God's nature, His will, and the blessings He provides, we must turn to His revealed Word. To illustrate, in the 23rd Psalm, David listed twelve



special blessings he enjoyed due to knowing God as his shepherd. Also, in Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, Solomon showed how fearing God and keeping His commandments are of utmost importance because everyone will face God in judgment one day. Furthermore, in Acts 17:22-31, Paul taught that there is one true God, that He cannot be compared to any image, and that He requires everyone to repent. Finally, Jesus revealed how God feels when a sinner repents (Luke 15:7, 10, 20-24).

The "one faith" teaches that the "one God and Father" wants you to believe that the "one Lord" is His only begotten Son, and He wants you to submit to the "one baptism." If you will do so, the Lord will add you to His "one body," you will have the "one hope" of eternal life, and you will gain access to the blessings provided by the "one Spirit."

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WORSHIP TIMES

Sunday Worship:

9:30 AM - Sermon
10:30 AM - Bible Class
11:30 AM - Lord's Supper

Wednesday Worship:
7:00 PM - All ages

Friday Bible Study:
10:15 AM @ Annex

Bible Class Topics:

Selected Psalms
Prison Epistles
Apologetics
Children: Sacred Hearts
Check with deacons for
workbooks

Amos Rowe
Roger James
Keith Parks
Don Burleson

Contact Information:

2053 High School Road
Hueytown, AL 35023

Office Phone:
317-363-9900 - Ed
256-431-4551 - Benjamin



Feel free to stop by the preachers' offices for Bible studies, prayers, talks, or a meeting.

The One Baptism

"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).

In the Bible, we actually read about several baptisms, including the baptism of John (Mark 1:4-5), the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11a), the baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11b-12), and the baptism commanded by Christ in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). However, when the apostle Paul wrote Ephesians (62 AD), he stated that there is only "one baptism." The people to whom this letter was written could certainly identify it. According to Acts 19:5, "they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." In other words, the people who became Christians in Ephesus were baptized with the baptism commanded by Christ in the Great Commission. This is the "one baptism" mentioned in Ephesians 4:5.

The "one baptism" has certain prerequisites. It is to be preceded by belief (Mark 16:16), repentance (Acts 2:38), and a confession of Christ (Romans 10:10; Acts 8:36-37). Based on these prerequisites, we conclude that the Lord

disapproves of christening babies. How can infants meet these requirements?

The Bible prescribes a particular manner in which the "one baptism" is to be administered. It is in water (Acts 8:38), and it is a burial (Colossians 2:12). Scriptural baptism is "immersion." How can the sprinkling or pouring of water be considered a burial?

The Bible clearly teaches that the "one baptism" is for the remission [removal, forgiveness] of sins (Acts 2:38); it is the point at which sins are washed away (Acts 22:16). It is necessary for salvation (1 Peter 3:21). Unfortunately, many religious groups reject these teachings. To illustrate, a pamphlet published by a denomination reads: "we believe that no one is a scriptural subject for baptism till he is already saved." In all kindness, people who have complied with this doctrine must follow the example of the people in Ephesus and be "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:1-7).

Finally, submitting to the "one baptism" is the way to get into Christ (Romans 6:3-7; Galatians 3:26-29) as well as the one body (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Member News and Prayer Requests

- Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of Greg Gravitt, the preacher at North Gardendale. He was killed in a motorcycle accident Thursday night. His parents are Pat and Bill Gravitt who attend at the Gardendale church. Greg is Janet Ethridge's nephew. The funeral arrangements are as follows: Gardendal Heritage Funeral Home on Thursday, January 26, 2023. Visitation will be at 10:00 AM and the service at 11:00 AM. There will be no graveside service. Prayers please for this entire family.
- Our sympathy and prayers to the Roper family in the loss of Jimmie. She died on January 4 in Ohio. Many of you may have known her and her husband, Bernie, who lived and worshipped in Pleasant Grove. There will be a memorial for her on Saturday, Feb.18 at 2:00 pm on the grounds of Rustic Youth Camp at 33150 Shady Grove Road in Russellville, Al.
- Bill Birtley, Billy's Dad, had a stroke recently and is very low at this time. He has been getting Hospice everyday. The nurse said that his body is shutting down. Prayers please for Mr. Birtley, Billy, Jonathan, Eric and their family.
- Carol had a bad fall last week. She saw an orthopedic doctor on Wednesday. He found no broken bones, but she is very sore and in a lot of pain. It will just take time to heal. Please pray for her and Don as he cares for her.
- Brad and Tammy have moved as most of you know. Their new address is 18820 River Drive, Shelby, AL 35143.
- For more news and notes please refer to the information line on our website:
www.hueytowncoc.com