

March 27, 2022

# **Viewpoint** from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

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## **Why Be Baptized?**

By H. E. Phillips

**M**any religious people today deny that obedience to the command of the Lord to be baptized “for the remission of sins” is necessary to those who have heard, believed the truth, and repented of their sins. The amazing part of this is how such a conclusion could be drawn in the face of all that is taught in the New Testament on the subject. Why does one have to be baptized for the “remission of sins”?

Man cannot decide this question; it must be done by the word of God. Following are some of the reasons given in the New Testament regarding the reason for baptism:

1. It is commanded by Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19; Acts 10:48).
2. It is in answer of a good conscience (1 Peter 3:20-21).
3. It is in order that one may rejoice in the forgiveness of sins (Acts 8:39; 16:33-34).
4. It is to get into Christ (Galatians 3:27).
5. It is to get into the death of Christ where remission is found (Romans 6:3; Colossians 2:12).
6. It is to be raised with Christ to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).
7. It is to wash away sins (Acts 22:16).
8. It is to be saved (Mark 16:15-16; 1 Peter 3:21).
9. It is for or unto the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

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# God Alone Is My Rock And My Salvation — Psalm 62

By Earl Robertson

**I**t is in God alone whom the psalmist finds strength, protection, and deliverance from evil and evil men.

Psalm 62 is, perhaps, like no other psalm composed in the Book of Psalms. This psalm has three stanzas with four verses each and they are separated by Selah. David is painfully aware of the ill and treacherous threats and behavior of his revolting son, Absalom, with his rebel army; but his trust is Jehovah alone. H. C. Leupold says in his Exposition of The Psalms, *“There is scarcely another psalm that reveals such an absolute and undisturbed peace, in which confidence in God is so completely unshaken, and in which assurance is so strong that not even one single petition is voiced throughout the psalm.”* The bitter hostilities of man do not distract him from the object of his faith; in trust he is triumphant over the riches, power and vanity of human strength, he remains unshaken in trusting God only.

Isaac Leeser, Hebrew scholar, renders 62:2 this way, *“Only in God my soul trusted in silence: from Him cometh my salvation. Only He is my rock and my salvation.”* The Hebrew “ak”, we are told by scholars, is almost untranslatable into English, but that our words only or alone best serve the meaning. Also, in Hebrew sentences wherein “ak is used it begins the sentence, and this makes it emphatic. Only God did David trust; he trusted God alone! His enemies thought of him as a leaning wall or tottering fence easily pushed over, but as Boice says, *“Yet in spite of their hostility, in this psalm David is not worrying about them but rather is trusting God.”* Though David loved his devilish son, Absalom, he couldn’t change his heart across a number of years; yet in the sons death David mourned and wept.

The greatest loss Christians can experience is failure to keep God alone as the object of their affections, devotions, obedience, and trust. Life’s experiences without this are deceiving and miserable. Great difficulty is seen along life’s pathway in Christians being side-tracked by the allurements of substitutes for God alone:

We turn to science, riches, education, power in positions but these all end in their human limitations. However, God never leaves or forsakes the faithful saint, but works all things to his good (Romans 8:28). Again, as Boice wrote of David, *“He is not trusting some-thing other than God, nor is he trusting God and something else, or God and someone else. His trust is in God only, and that is why he is so confident.”*

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The acute disease besetting Christians is the lack of belief in the Almighty God and in the power of His gospel. This woeful spectacle is seen in every effort of preachers that turn to tales and entertainment, newspaper headlines, etc., rather than preaching exactly what God's word says to an eternity-bound people. Getting crowds with fluff is no evidence that God is with the crowd. An opportunity to preach the everlasting gospel (Rev. 14:6) must not be taken lightly; and the man who stands before an audience as God's representative to speak as the oracles of God (1 Pet. 4:11) must do so reverently, saying what is profitable to men (Acts 20:17-27). This does not permit the preacher to preach himself (2 Cor. 4:5), but does impose on him the duty to preach Christ as Lord. Paul, in all of his accomplishments for Christ knew his needs in the sentence of death that he should not trust in himself, but in God who raiseth the dead: who delivered us out of so great a death, and will deliver: on whom we have set our hope that He will also still deliver us (2 Cor. 1:9,10). What victory for saints who having denied themselves (Lk. 9:23) to become disciples can remain so looking unto Jesus (Heb. 12:2). Christians can't depend on psychology and human experiences for help and completeness, but, like David, trust God alone!

David asks the question: "whence shall come my help?" Then quickly he answers the question, "My help is from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth" (Psa. 121:1-2). It is difficult for man to remain constantly under the conviction that God alone is the source of his help, but this is the truth; having sufficient trust in Him that causes one to let go of all human sources and lean on God only is what the Bible teaches (see Prov. 3:5). The neurotic and doubtful Christian has to cease complaining about getting nothing that is satisfying from things, and turn his heart into complete trust of God alone. Jesus preached against anxiety for tomorrow, saying today has its troubles; deal with the present shrinkage of faith and develop full confidence that God will provide (see Gen. 22:8; Matt. 6:34; Heb. 10:35-39). Paul said, "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19). This doesn't tell how God does this, but does affirm it is in Jesus. It is in Jesus that we have hope, confidence, assurance and the right to trust only God for help to resist the devil and so live that we can go to heaven: but here we confess that we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth (Heb. 11:13).

***"My help is  
from the Lord,  
the maker of  
heaven and  
earth."***

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## ***Oink!***

**W**henver you hear some attractive movie star, model, or singer shamelessly boast of her ungodly life-style, remember the words of Solomon:

*As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a lovely woman  
who lacks discretion. — Proverbs 11:22*

## The Word Of God

For feelings come and feelings go,  
and feelings are deceiving.

My warrant is the Word of God;  
nought else is worth believing.

I'll trust in God's unchanging word,  
'till soul and body sever;

For, though all things shall pass away,  
His Word shall stand forever.

—*Author Unknown*

## It Works This Way . . .

The more you give, the more you get;  
The more you laugh,  
the less you fret;

The more you do unselfishly,  
The more you live abundantly;

The more of everything you share,  
The more you'll have to spare;

The more you love,  
the more you'll find

That life is good and friends are kind;

For only what you give away  
Enriches you from day to day.

— *Author Unknown*

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***Visitors — We pray that you  
benefit spiritually from our  
worship together and hope  
to see you again.***

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***The Bible:  
Read it, Believe it, Obey it!***

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**April Birthdays:** The 2nd Jeanette  
Cooper; The 11th Wesley Hisaw.

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### Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship . . . . . 10:30 A.M.

Worship . . . . . 5:00 P.M.

### Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

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