

**New Caney
Church of Christ**

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Assembly Times

Sundays
Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Wednesdays
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

***Retaining The Standard
Of Sound Doctrine***

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Know Your Bible: Answers

1. Peter (Acts 3:6)
2. God (Malachi 3:8)
3. Jesus (Luke 8:21)
4. God (Amos 3:3)
5. The woman at the well (John 4:19)
6. Peter (Matthew 16:16)

This Week's Assignments & Events

Sunday Worship

Greeter: Corwin Richardson
Announcements:
Encouragement Talk: Kevin Buckner
Opening Prayer: Casey Thomas
Scripture Reading: Truett Blazek
Titus 2:11-15
Song Leader: Arturo Orozco
Table Talk: Ronnie Ramsey
Contribution: Tyler Blazek
Helper: Theo Edge
Fruit of Vine: John Franks
Helper: Sandon Spyker
Helper: Verlin Wilson
Closing Prayer: Scott McDearman

Sunday Afternoons

June 30 Nothing
July 7 Nothing
July 14 3PM Devotionals
July 21 Nothing

Wednesday Evening

Song Leader: Corwin Richardson
Speaker: Kevin Buckner



Standing Firm

“Take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”
Ephesians 6:13

Volume 21
Number 26
June 30, 2024

The Purpose Of John The Baptist

John the Baptist is an often misunderstood Bible character. He gets forgotten in light of the Messiah. His work was very important and scripture has a good deal to say about him.

Prophesied

“Behold, I send My messenger ahead of you, who will prepare Your way; The voice of one crying in the wilderness, ‘Make ready the way of the Lord, Make His path straight’” (Is. 40:3). Both Matthew 3 and Mark 1:2-3 reveals this is speaking of John the Baptist. He *“appeared in the wilderness preaching...”* (Mark 1:4).

At the very end of the book of Malachi is written, *“behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. He will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, so that I will not come and smite the land with a curse”* (Mal. 4:5-6).

Jesus Himself tells us *“John himself is Elijah who was to come”* (Matt. 11:14; also 17:10-13). The angel Gabriel told Zacharias (the father of John): *“he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God. It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord”* (Luke 1:16-17).

The people were literally looking for the return of Elijah. When asked if he was Elijah, John said *“I am not”... “I am a voice of one crying in the wilderness make straight the way of the Lord, as Isaiah the prophet said”* (John 1:21-23). John understood the prophecies spoken about him. He understood the importance of his role as the forerunner.

His father prophesied about him, shortly after his birth saying: *“you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways”* (Luke 1:76).

Purpose in Preaching

“Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, ‘repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand’” (Matt. 3:1-2). Gabriel told Zacharias John would turn the hearts of the people from disobedience to righteousness (Luke 1:17). His preaching would cause people to repent, to decide to change their ways.

He wore camel’s hair and ate locusts and honey while he preached in the wilderness (Matt. 3:4). The people of Jerusalem, Judea and the area around the Jordan were going out to hear him (Matt. 3:5). The Pharisee’s also. Matthew 3:7-12 is a warning from John about the dangers the Pharisees faced if they continued their hypocritical ways. He tried to get them to repent as well. He even preached the

truth to Herod which caused him to be thrown in jail (Luke 3:18-20). Many were impressed and wondered if John was the Christ (Luke 3:15).

We know that many believers did repent and followed John. Some of the apostles that Jesus called were the disciples of John. John instructed them to follow Jesus because He was "the Lamb of God" (John 1:35-37).

Purpose of his Baptism

John was blessed to baptize the Messiah, though he did not feel worthy. Christ fulfilled all righteousness in being baptized (Matt. 3:15). So we learn that the baptism of John was what God expected of people at that time in order to be righteous.

John admits he baptized with water (Luke 3:16). The language demands this was an immersion in water. But the purpose was different than a baptism in the name of Christ. John says of Jesus, "I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water" (John 1:31). He later says He now recognizes Jesus as the Son of God (v.34).

His mission was one of preparation. He changed the thinking of many in causing them to repent of their sin. He prepared their minds for accepting the good news of Jesus Christ. If a man died (before the beginning of the church), he was righteous if he listened to John. John's message was not different than the Old Law. He was working to get people to return to the proper attitude of heart necessary to please God. His was "a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3).

The baptism of John was replaced by baptism in the name of Jesus. John said Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matt. 3:12; Luke 3:16). John understood things would change. He said he needed to be baptized of Christ (Matt. 3:14).

Paul helps our understanding when he meets 12 men in the area of Ephesus who were baptized of John. He tells them, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 19:4).

Conclusion

John's baptism was different than that of Christ. Once the church was established, John's baptisms were not enough to please God. John played an important role in preparing the way. Jesus called him "more than a prophet. Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he" (Matt. 11:11-12).

By Charles Willis

Know Your Bible

Who Said It?

1. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazaren - walk!
2. Will a man rob God?
3. My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it.
4. Do two men walk together unless they have made an appointment?
5. Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.
6. You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Answers On Back

Sunday Sermon

Point your phone camera at the square below, then click on the link to hear the sermon. Recordings will change mid-week.



The New Testament Church

WARNING

Matt. 15:13
Matt. 7:21

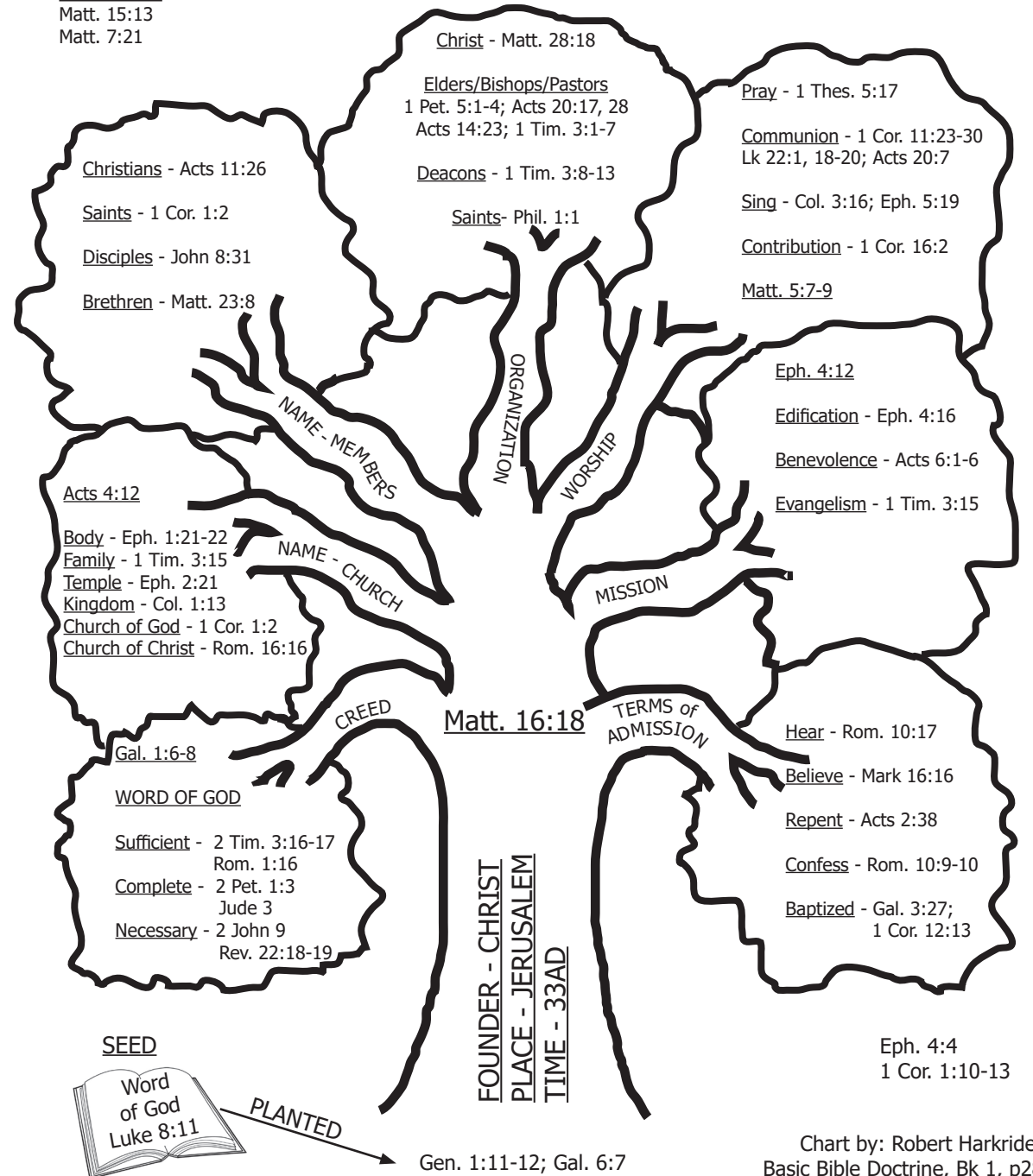


Chart by: Robert Harkrider
Basic Bible Doctrine, Bk 1, p28