

## Is It God's Will for You to Be Baptized?

By: Dan Jenkins

The expression “for the remission of sins” was included with the saving blood of Jesus in the upper room. As He took the cup, He said, “This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” There would be no salvation for any individual if there was not the shedding of His blood. No one can misunderstand the meaning of the expression “for the remission of sins.”

If this expression indicates an action by Jesus to bring about salvation, consider the baptism of John the Baptist. He was a messenger sent by God to prepare the world for the coming of Jesus. He introduced an action not found in the Old Testament. He immersed people in water. His impact was so immense. “Then Jerusalem, all Judea, and all the region around the Jordan went out to him and were baptized by him in the Jordan, confessing their sins” ([Matt. 3:5-6](#)). Not everyone was baptized by John, for the next verse shows that the leaders of the Pharisees and Sadducees came to see what was happening and turned away when John rebuked them. If you know anything about these leaders, you know there was no way they would confess their sins and be baptized.

Why did John baptize people? What was the purpose of John's baptism? God reveals to us the purpose of this baptism. “John came in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins” ([Mark 1:4](#)). Jesus shed His blood in order to bring about the “remission of sins” and John was

baptizing the multitudes in order to bring about the “remission of sins.” It is described as a baptism of repentance because John not only taught that those with sins had to be baptized, but he also taught the necessity of repentance ([Matt. 3:2](#)). Those who repented were then baptized, but those leaders refused to repent.

How serious was it to reject the baptism of John in order to bring about salvation? Let God give us the answer. “And when all the people heard him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him” ([Luke 7:29-30](#)). The teaching of baptism for the remission of sins was a message sent to John from heaven (cf. [Matt. 21:25](#)). To reject it was to reject the will of God. To refuse baptism was to leave with the burden and consequences of sin still upon them.

Why did John refuse to baptize Jesus? It was because both John and Jesus knew the purpose of baptism. John was the sinner, but Jesus had no sins.

Read [Acts 2:38](#). How serious would it be if you refuse to repent and be baptized for the remission of your sins?

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# Spiritual Growth: Add Perseverance

By: Selected

It is one thing to begin doing what is right—it is another to keep doing it. That is why Peter says to “add...to self-control perseverance” (2 Pet. 1:6). Perseverance (or “steadfastness,” ESV) means endurance. The Greek word carries the idea of “remaining under” or bearing up under pressure. It is the ability to stay faithful through trials and difficulties.

This quality is more than passive endurance. It is not simply “grin and bear it.” It is active persistence—a determination to press forward toward the destination despite obstacles. This is essential to spiritual growth. Self-control helps us do what is right today—perseverance helps us keep doing it tomorrow and the next day and the next. Without perseverance, early progress can be lost.

Scripture emphasizes how necessary this quality is, as we are to “let patience have its perfect work” so that we may be complete (Jas. 1:4), and we are to bear fruit “with patience” (Luke 8:15). Eternal life itself is promised to those who patiently continue in doing good (Rom. 2:7; Heb. 10:36). We must persevere in two key arenas: trials and temptations. Trials can discourage us and tempt us to give up. Temptations can distract us and pull us away. Both can render us unfruitful if we do not remain steadfast.

So how do we develop perseverance? First, through the Word of God. Scripture provides both encouragement and hope, helping us endure (Rom. 15:4). As we fill our minds with God’s promises, we are strengthened to keep going.

Second, through the right perspective. We

must look to Jesus, who endured the cross and now reigns in glory (Heb. 12:1-2). We must also remember the examples of faithful servants who endured before us (Jas. 5:10-11). Their lives remind us that perseverance is possible—and worth it.

Third, through trials themselves. We do not welcome difficulties, but they play a role in shaping endurance (Rom. 5:3-4). Trials test and strengthen our faith, preparing us for greater challenges ahead.

Fourth, through encouragement from others. Fellowship with fellow Christians helps us remain faithful. Through exhortation and shared strength, we are better equipped to endure (Heb. 3:12-14; 10:24-25).

Finally, perseverance grows when we focus on the future. The trials of this life are temporary, but the reward is eternal (2 Cor. 4:16-18). That perspective helps us press on.

Perseverance is demonstrated when we remain faithful in both difficult and distracting circumstances—continuing to serve God and moving forward no matter what. If we are to reach the goal, we must not quit.



## Upcoming Events

Today, June 7: Monthly potluck luncheon after morning services. There will be a 12:45pm afternoon service as well. Please bring a dish/dessert to share.

Area events:

\*Area events/details are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway. Please check them out.\*

## Prayer List

Prayer Requests:

Rieke's sister, Patty Smith, is having some problems with her knee that she just had surgery on.

### Summer Series Wednesday Night Classes

Every Wednesday night during the Summer session, the Adults will be learning about "Questions Jesus Asked" and the Children will be learning about "Biomimicry: God invented it First". Please join us at 7pm.

### VISITORS:

Thank you for visiting today. Please take a moment to scan this QR Code to fill out a visitor card. We would love to have a record of your attendance.



## Service Roster

Week of June 7, 2026

### Sunday Morning

Scripture Reading.....James Cammock  
Song Leader..... Jeff Cannady

Opening Prayer..... Jake Jacobs  
Closing Prayer..... Mark FitzSimmons

### Lord's Supper & Offering

Bread..... Kevin Sheeran  
Cup..... Randy D'Herde  
Offering..... Genesis Williams  
Assist..... Caleb Lehtinen  
Assist..... Blake Jacobs  
Assist..... Clifton Rutherford

### Sunday Evening

Song Leader..... Barry Lehtinen

Opening Prayer.....James Cammock  
Closing Prayer.....Bryce Dolan

Lord's Supper & Offering.....Lupe Escojido/  
Willie Fossati

### Wednesday Evening

Adult Class.....Lupe Escojido  
Song Leader..... Doug Jobs  
Devotional..... Lupe Escojido

### Other

Prepare Communion for June.....Rosales

## Congregational News This Week

### Birthdays

Cody McCoy.....June 7  
Draven Garcia.....June 8  
Helen Cannady.....June 10

### Anniversaries

Billy & Deann York.....June 7

If you have any prayer requests, upcoming events to be announced, or updates/corrections please contact our secretary, Nina Siegel, at (361) 573-0030 or email [office.midtownchurch@gmail.com](mailto:office.midtownchurch@gmail.com)

## Our Elders

Mark FitzSimmons  
Ron White

## Our Deacons

James Cammock—Evangelism  
Lupe Escojido— Benevolence  
Doug Jobes—Safety, Men’s Encouragement &  
Winter Youth Retreat  
Kevin Sheeran—Worship Organization and  
Communication  
Bryant Siegel—Education and Finance

## Our Minister

Cody McCoy

## Weekly Reading

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven.  
Matthew 5:3

## Service Times

Sunday Morning Bible Class.....9:00 A.M.  
Sunday Morning Worship.....10:00 A.M.  
Sunday Evening Worship.....5:00 P.M.  
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00 P.M.

## Attendance Records

Week of May 31, 2026

A.M. Bible Class.....69  
A.M. Worship.....96  
P.M. Worship.....73  
Wednesday Worship.....57

*Financial information is located on the bulletin  
board in the hallway.*

## Supported Works

*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

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