

cont'd from front...

fied the Lord and Christ. What will he tell them? In answer to their cry, "Brethren, what shall we do?" Peter says, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you ..." (Acts 2:38). Repentance and baptism! They go together and must not be separated.

John the Baptist knew that mere washing without repentance would avail nothing. In fact, he even refused baptism to a group of religious leaders who requested it (a rather bold thing for any preacher to do). Instead of baptizing them, he said, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit that befits repentance..." (Matthew 3:7, 8).

What is baptism but a mere washing away of the filth of the flesh unless it is accompanied by repentance? I will tell you. It is nothing.



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
(John 1:1)

The Word existed from eternity. In fact, the original language of John 1:1 reads this way: "In the beginning the Word always was, and the Word always was with God, and the Word always was God."

That same eternal Word became flesh in the person of Jesus Christ, who brought grace and truth (John 1:14). Jesus did not consider equality with God something to be grasped (Philippians 2:6). In Him, all of the fullness of the Godhead dwelt in bodily form (Colossians 2:9).

The Word was in equality with God, and yet came humbly to redeem sinful, lost humanity! O What a Savior! O Hallelujah!

July 15, 2018

church of Christ at Alisal

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Tiger Swallowtail

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!

This Week's Sermon's

**A.M. - Is God Conscious of Man?
P.M. - Reluctant To Believe**

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"EXTREMES BEGAT EXTREMES"

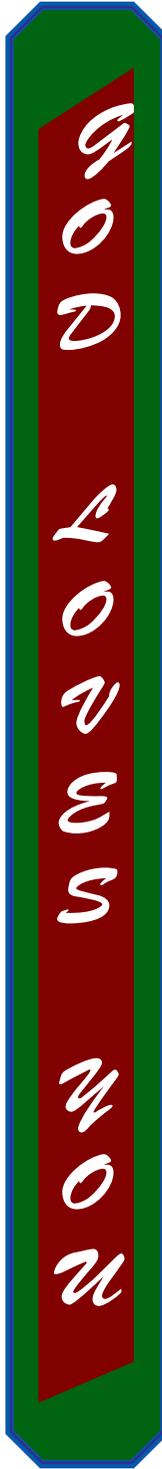
Raymond Elliott



I remember well these words spoken by a wise and knowledgeable teacher of mine when I was in college. Brother Rex A Turner, Sr. had many 'sayings' but this is the one I want to emphasize presently. I have lived long enough (83 years) to know factually and by experience that this is true in our society today. He also said that a man need a "Balance wheel", which we sorely need today. We are people of 'extremism'. This is so evident today in the political world. Seemingly there is no 'middle ground' for some of our elected officials, and, in society in general. It is truly sad to witness the prejudice, bigotry and hatred manifested in our country. You can find such attitudes in people of different races and ethnic backgrounds. When you watch the news on television, or, read the newspapers, you can be assured the actions of such extreme attitudes of various individuals and/or groups are reported.

I am reminded of the opening sentence in the book, 'A Tale of Two Cities', written by Charles Dickens (1857): "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way—in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only." In short, the description of the society in which the author lived, describes, in many ways, our present extreme attitudes and actions of our own time.

As Christians, we should follow the teachings of Jesus Christ who said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). The apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12:17, 18, "Repay no one evil for evil, Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men." In Hebrews 12:14, we read, "Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord." We should not only be children of God who possess "the peace of God, which passes all understanding" (Philippians 4:7); we must be "peacemakers" in the church and in society. And that, my friends, is a great challenge for



all who are followers of the "Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). The following should be the prayer of all Christians.

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love, Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is darkness, light; And where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved, as to love." - Francis of Assisi

When Baptism is Meaningless

John Gipson

It was Sunday afternoon. The phone rang. The voice on the line was that of a man who had been a member of this church in times past. He now lives in another city, but had returned to Little Rock for a visit.

"I want to talk to you about my baptism," he said. (I assumed that through the years he had learned more about baptism and thus was beginning to question whether his knowledge had been sufficient at the time he was immersed into Christ). "I suppose you are questioning your baptism because you now know more about the subject than you did when you were baptized?"

"No. I'm questioning my repentance. For some time now, I have been making a study of the kingdom of God, and I see that repentance is always linked to entering the kingdom. I don't think I ever repented. When I was baptized, I didn't change my life. I kept on doing all of the things I had done before."

I wonder how many people think that there is something magical in baptism. In truth, baptism—done by rote—is meaningless. Repentance and baptism go together like love and marriage, or a horse and carriage. One without the other isn't sufficient.

It is the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem. Peter is addressing those who have cruci-

(continued on back page...)

Announcements

1. Brother Kerry will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. Wednesday - Study of the book of Romans Chapter 4 #2.

~ On the Prayer list ~

Our Family here at Alisal - for spiritual growth and good health.
Norma, Rose & Kerry- for peace of mind, healing, and better health.
David from Morro Bay - for healing from his transplants and stroke.
Path Star - for continued healing from hip replacement surgery and other complications.

Have a blessed week!