



The Sword

*“And take... the sword of the Spirit,
which is the word of God.”* Ephesians 6:17

“The Sword” is published weekly by the OAK GROVE CHURCH OF CHRIST, as a teaching and information tool for the congregation. Articles are intended to encourage the study of God’s Word every day! — Jack W. McNiel, editor

Volume 17 - March 28, 2010 - Number 13

“The Humility of Jesus” (Part 1 of 4) by Jack W. McNiel

In Matthew 3:13-17, we have the account of the baptism of Jesus. John the Immerser had begun his work in making the declaration, *“Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...”* (Mat 3:2) His mission was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, *“The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...”* (Mat 3:3; Isa 40:3-5) At this time, John was immersing penitent Jews in the river Jordan in the wilderness of Judea, presumably near the city of Jericho. (Mat 3:1) John’s message and the purpose of his immersing was for the remission of sins. With the authority of a true prophet of God vested in him, he commanded that all Jews *“Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance...”* (Luke 3:8) and that they be baptized for the remission of their sins. The Jews who responded to the work and teaching of John did so out of a desire to be cleansed from their sins. It was the common people, sinners, publicans and soldiers who came to him, bringing sorrowful hearts needing atonement. Jews from all over Judea and Palestine came to John, submitting to God’s will and being baptized to wash away their sins.

It is here that we first encounter, our Lord Jesus as a full-grown man at age 30. (Luke 3:23) It was at this age that the Levites and priests were able to begin their service. (Num 4) John, being from a priestly family (Luke 1:5), likely would have begun his ministry upon his turning 30, some six months prior to Jesus. (Luke 1:26ff) It was also at age 30 that David began to reign as king over Israel. (2 Sam 5:4) David began his reign over physical Israel at 30 and Christ began the work of building His spiritual kingdom when He was 30. At the age of 30, Jesus was in the fullness of his manhood and was ready to embark on His mission of salvation. Yet one thing was lacking, Jesus, as a Jewish man, was required to heed the command-

ment to be baptized of John.

In our context, Jesus has come from Galilee for the purpose of being immersed by John (v.13). Upon seeing Jesus, and knowing of his character, if not his Messiahship, attempted to forbid Jesus from being baptized by him. He protested, *“And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.”* (John 1:31-34).

Prior to this event, John did not know with any certainty that his kinsman, Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah. But clearly, he understood at this moment that Jesus had no sins to be remitted. In fact, John recognized that he himself was in need of salvation and that he was not worthy to baptize such a one as Jesus. JW McGarvey stated, “It seemed to John too great an honor for him to baptize Jesus, and too great a humiliation for Jesus to be baptized...” Therefore, John refused at first to baptize Jesus. “John did not forbid Jesus, but had it in mind to prevent him: was for hindering him. Hence, the ASV translation ‘would have hindered him.’ [this] represents strong feeling on John's part. He was moved to strenuous protest against Jesus' baptism by him.” (Vincent)

John clearly was perplexed as to why

Jesus, the sinless one, would be coming to him for baptism. Guy N. Woods stated, “Jesus did not come to be baptized from a feeling of personal sinfulness, neither because of a personal connection with an impure people, nor for the purpose of showing that there was no incompatibility between his life and the life of others, nor merely to elicit the Divine declaration that he was the Son of God, nor to confirm the faith of others, neither was it to sanction the baptism of John as having been authorized of God. It was the will of God for him to be baptized, and he came to do the will of God. (Heb 10:7)”

Jesus came to John for baptism out of obedience to the One who sent Him. Therefore, He answered John, *“Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness...”* (v.14) Jesus recognized that John was correct in his assessment of his relative sinfulness when compared to Jesus' sinlessness. His answer, *“suffer it to be so for now”,* (i.e. “allow it this one time”) shows that at least in one aspect it was unnecessary for Him to be baptized. He then further clarified *“for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.”* Jesus made it clear that there was more to John's baptism than just the remission of sins - it was to fulfill God's righteousness. Baptism was a righteous act commanded by God - it was a condition for acceptance by God. God commanded it, therefore Jesus obeyed Him. It was in part by this that, *“Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered...”* (Heb 5:8)

Continued next week...

NEWS AND NOTES:

OUR PRAYER LIST:

Congregation:

- Walter Reed was hospitalized last week with heart problems. He is home.
- Irene Jennings is now home from the hospital.
- Please remember in your prayers all who have been sick, bereaved or in the hospital recently: Marjorie Alley, Freda Bentley, Lloyd Cooper, Irene Jennings, Jim O'Connor, Wendell Osborne, Alberta Petering,

Friends & Family:

- Wendell Osborne is improving after heart bypass surgery.

ITEMS OF INTEREST:

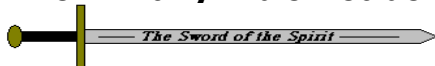
Oak Grove:

- Youth Devotional after evening services.
- April 11-14: Gospel Meeting with Marvin Rickett
- Ladies' Class 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month at 10 AM.
- Personal Evangelism II each Sunday 4:45–5:30 PM.

Local Area:

- March 20: 39th St. Saturday Seminar
- March 21-24: Blue Springs Gospel Meeting
- April 23-25: Brad Harrub: The Truth About Origins Seminar—Harrisonville

**Keep Your Sword Sharpened
– Be A Daily Bible Reader!**



SERVING ONE ANOTHER:

LEADING IN WORSHIP: *March 28*

Announcements: Claude Andrews
Usher: Walter Reed
Lord's Table: Sean McLaughlin
West: Hershel Hunt – Ryker Shelley
East: Justin Liljegren – Kenny Wyman

Sunday AM

Song Leader: David Wiesemann
Opening Prayer: Leland Reed
Second Prayer: Claude Andrews
Scripture Reader: Glenn Wyman
Sermon: **Mark 1:14-15**
"The Preaching of Jesus Part 1"
Closing Prayer: Tim Smith

Sunday PM

Song Leader: Dustin Hall
Opening Prayer: Roy Smith
Sermon: **Romans 5:6-11**
"A Chance, a Change and a Challenge"
Closing Prayer: Roger Stephenson

Wednesday Night:

Song Leader: Tyler Jenkins
March 24
Devotional: Dustin Hall
Closing Prayer: Richard Petering
March 31
Devotional: Walter Hutcherson
Closing Prayer: Darrell Andrews

OUR CURRENT RECORDS:

Wednesday: *March 10*

Bible Class 82

Sunday: *March 14*

Bible Class 54
AM Worship 65
PM Worship 67
Contribution \$1,652
Budget \$2,020

*The King James Version is requested for
pulpit, classrooms, & scripture reading.*

Work Program 2008-2009

Team	Leader/s	Next Assignment
1	<i>Jack McNeil</i>	<i>Mar. 28</i>
2	Roger Stephenson	April 4
3	Walter Hutcherson	April 11
4	Vernon Logan	April 18
5	Dustin Hall	April 25
6	Roy Smith Tim Smith	May 2
7	Justin Liljegren Dixon Liljegren	May 9

WHO WE ARE:

The Oak Grove Church of Christ is independent of any denominational organization. We are not associated with any national or world headquarters. Yet, we cooperate voluntarily with our sister congregations in the Lord's work and fellowship.

The church of Christ is noted for its emphasis upon returning to New Testament Christianity and for its desire to "*be perfectly joined together in the same mind and ... judgment...*" (1 Cor. 1:10). We try to follow the basic, innocent faith that was proclaimed on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

If you are earnest about learning more by means of studying the Holy Bible and obeying what it says, you will truly find a home here at Oak Grove Church of Christ.

Oak Grove Church of Christ

104 SW 6th Street,
Oak Grove, MO 64075 (816) 690-4599
www.ogchurchofchrist.org

Head of the Church:

Christ (Eph 1:22; 5:23; Col 1:18)

Elders: (1 Tim 3:1-7)

Claude Andrews
Walter Hutcherson
Richard Petering
Lowell Smith

Deacons: (1 Tim 3:8-13)

Darrell Andrews
Dean Evatt
Vint Hall
Hershel Hunt
Leland Reed
Tim Smith
David Wiesemann

Preacher: (2 Tim 4:1-5)

Jack W. McNeil
Office: (816) 690-4599
Cell: (816) 522-2584
ogchurchofchrist@embarqmail.com

– Schedule of Services –

Sunday:

Bible Study – 9:30 A.M.

Worship – 10:20 A.M.; 6:00 P.M.

Wednes: Bible Study – 7:00 P.M.

Bi-Monthly: "House to House / Heart to Heart"