



# God's Seven Water Tests

by T. Pierce Brown

Those who ridicule God's command to be baptized in order to be forgiven would do well to consider at least seven occasions when God used water to separate those who followed Him from those who rejected Him. The first outstanding example is the flood. If one only read the Old Testament story, he could easily see that principle. It is made more certain, striking and significant when we read of it again in Hebrews 11:7 and especially in 1 Peter 3:20-21 where we are told in specific terms that the water that saved them from the wicked world is a type of the baptism that saves us.

The second outstanding example of the use of water to separate God's people from others is in the story of Israel crossing the Red Sea. In Exodus 14:30, we find, "Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians and they saw the Egyptians dead upon the seashore." Paul referred to this in 1 Corinthians 10:2 when he wrote, "They were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea."

The third example is in Judges 7 where God had Gideon's army to undergo a "water test." Those who were watchful and careful and lapped the water in their hands were separated from those who did not. There are many lessons we can get from that story, such as the fact that God does not need large numbers to do ...

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

**VISITORS,  
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes  
for all ages & fellowship  
for lunch every Sunday!

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### ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell Chris Martin

Joe Owen Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II John Wofford

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... any job He wishes to do, but our lesson today is simply that He used water to choose His warriors. The others he rejected.

One of the most outstanding examples is that of Naaman, the leper, in 2 Kings 5. He was commanded to go and dip seven times in the Jordan to cure his leprosy. Many sermons could be preached on the necessity of doing what is commanded, where it is commanded and in the manner it is commanded. Those are all very important lessons. No river but Jordan would do. No use of water other than dipping would do. No number but seven times was proper. One could scoff at the whole process and call it "a water cure" or any other term he may choose. The simple fact is that although he was cured by God's grace when he accepted it in obedient faith, water was the point or place where the cleansing was done.

In John 9:7 when Jesus told the blind man to go and wash in the pool of Siloam, those who stood by might have scoffed and said, "Water cannot give sight. There is no power in the water, so forget it, or wait until you are cured to wash." It is clear for any who will read it honestly that washing in the pool of Siloam stood between the blind man and his recovery. Whether they or we can see any sense in it, an honest student cannot miss the fact that Jesus used water as a test of his faith and as a means by which he received sight.

In John's baptism, we find another strong example of the use of water separating those who rejected God and those who received Him. Luke 7:29-30 says, "And all the people when they heard, and all the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected for themselves the counsel of God, being not baptized of him."

The greatest and most significant water test God used is the one in Mark 16:16, where Jesus plainly says, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." If one simply wants to do God's will and reads that in connection with the cases of conversion, such as Acts 2:38 and Acts 22:16, where it plainly says that baptism is for the remission of sins, to wash away sins, one can see that God is still using the water test to separate His people from those who reject Him. Have you passed God's water test?

# Fifth Sunday

September 30, 2018

Clifton Angel	— Announcements/Introduction — <b>Read:</b>	<b>Hebrews 13:15</b>
Noah Davis	<i>Lord We Come Before Thee Now (1,2,4)</i> <i>Sing &amp; Be Happy (All 3)</i>	
Marc Strickland	— PRAYER	
Daniel Owen	— <b>Read:</b>	<b>Colossians 3:16-17</b>
Davis Johnson	<i>Holy, Holy, Holy (1, 2)</i> <i>We Praise Thee O God (1, 4)</i>	
Chris Martin	— <b>Read:</b>	<b>Ephesians 5:18-19</b>
Dalton Owen	<i>To God Be The Glory (1, 2)</i> <i>Praise Him! Praise Him! (All 3)</i>	
John Wofford	— <b>Read:</b>	<b>Exodus 15:1-2</b>
Jason Bayless	<i>We Will Glorify (All 4)</i> <i>You Are The Words &amp; The Music (x2)</i>	
Clifton Angel	— Devotional & Invitation	
Jason Bayless	<i>There's A Fountain Free (All 3)</i>	
Jim J. & Russell W.	— Lord's Supper	
Terry Davis	— PRAYER	

## UPCOMING EVENTS in the AREA

September 30 - Oct 3	Pine Bluff Gospel Meeting, <b>Various preachers</b>
October 5	Southaven 5th Annual Gospel Singing
October 7 - 11	Looxahoma Gospel Meeting, <b>Jerry Martin</b>
October 19 - 20	MSOP World Evangelism Seminar
October 21 - 24	Spiritual Sword (Getwell) Lectureship
November 2	Ladies' Night Out (Southaven hosting)

**See bulletin board for flyers with more details**

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Tim Wilkes II** & family, India missions; **Stephanie Bayless**; **Clifton Angel**; **Timothy Wilkes, Sr**; **Sammy Williams**; **Wiley Tuggle**; **Caleb & Elizabeth Baker**; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**.

[Far East Missions](#)|[Fishers of Men](#)|[NetCasters](#)

## Family & Friends

**Ava Lynn family**, Lennie & Caryn Reagan's granddaughter; **Tabby Jenkins**, acute myeloid leukemia (AML); **Victims** of recent hurricanes; **Michael Stock**, heart operation; **Mallory Brinson** and family; **Vicki Angel**, knee surgery on left knee Oct 8; **Mandy Scarpulla**, Monica's friend, kidney & pancreas transplant; **Claire Easley**, Molly's mom; **Dan Talley**, Weslyn's father-in-law, lung cancer.

## Birthdays

9/2 Dana Davis  
9/5 Jake Sutton  
9/5 Kevin Dixon  
9/5 Andy Acklin  
9/11 Molly Ratliff  
9/11 Brenan Miller  
9/16 Melanie Miller  
9/22 Ashley Strickland  
9/26 Bren Burdsal  
9/26 Geoffrey Dunn

## Anniversaries

9/19 Timothy & Lynn Wilkes

## Get Involved!

**4th Qtr Teachers' Meeting: TODAY**

Meet together while eating lunch

**5th Sunday Service: TODAY, 1 PM**

**3rd Qtr Series: Oct 3, 7 PM**

"Let Us Worship" (Hebrews 13:15), Jerry Davis

**Sunday Afternoon for the Savior: Oct 7**

**Coldwater Youth Lock-In: Oct 12**

**Providence Place Devo: Oct 14, 2 PM**

**Bible Bowl @ Nesbit: Oct 20, 4 PM**

1 Samuel 4 – 6

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, September 30

### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Billy Bland
Announcements	Jerry Davis
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jim Jackson
	Russell Wadsworth
Assist	Chris Martin
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Opening Prayer	Kevin Dixon
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	John Wofford

### Afternoon

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Opening Prayer	Marc Strickland
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jim Jackson
	Russell Wadsworth
Closing Prayer	Terry Davis

Wednesday, October 3

Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Prayer	Jerry Davis
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Andy Ratliff

TECH:	Noah Davis
HALL:	Jason & Ginger Bayless