

# The Manslick Road Speaker

*“But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.” – Titus 2:1*

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## **The Importance of Baptism**

*Zack Lee*

There are many misunderstandings concerning the biblical teaching of baptism. This is especially true concerning the essentiality of baptism. The best way to look at any Bible topic is to put away man’s thinking on the subject and allow God to speak through His word. Examine what the Bible says about this important subject.

**Baptism stands between the sinner and salvation.** “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mark 16:15-16). There would be no misunderstanding if Jesus would have said, “He who believes and is baptized will receive a Mercedes-Benz.” Why is it that the simplicity is lost when dealing with our salvation? The main reason is that many are deceived by men. “See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ” (Colossians 2:8). Will we accept the clear teaching of Jesus or be deceived by the tradition of men?

**Baptism stands between the sinner and the remission of sins.** Then Peter said to

them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). Both repentance and baptism are in order to obtain the remission of sins. Why can’t men respond to the gospel the way Peter said on the day of Pentecost?

**Baptism stands between the sinner and having his sins washed away.** On the road to Damascus, Paul asked, “What shall I do Lord?” (Acts 22:10). Jesus said it would be told what he *must* do (Acts 9:6). Ananias told Paul that he would be God’s witness to all men, but there was something that he needed to do and it couldn’t wait! “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). He needed to be baptized in order to have his sins washed away.

**Baptism stands between the sinner and being of Christ** “Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe’s household, that there are contentions among you. Now I say this, that each of you says, ‘I am of Paul,’ or ‘I am of Apollos,’ or ‘I am of Cephas,’ or ‘I

am of Christ.’ Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Corinthians 1:10-13).

A person cannot say they are “of” someone unless they were crucified for them and baptized into their name. Therefore, one cannot say they are “of” Christ unless they have been baptized in His name.

**Baptism stands between the sinner and rejoicing because of forgiveness.** The Ethiopian eunuch did not go on his way rejoicing until after he was baptized (Acts 8:39). The Philippian Jailer did not rejoice until after he was baptized (Acts 16:33-34). Saul of Tarsus was in such agony of the soul that he did not eat or drink until after he was baptized (Acts 9:19). Becoming a child of God is the greatest decision anyone will ever make. There should be great rejoicing when a soul obeys the gospel and is forgiven of his sins. However, true rejoicing only follows baptism.

I hope you can see from the Bible, the importance of baptism. There is no salvation without it. There is nothing mystical about the water. It is not the water itself that saves, but that God simply chose this action as a part of our obedience. If you love the Lord, you will do what he says. “If you love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15).

## I Doubt It!

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*Zack Lee*

After the crucifixion of Christ, the apostles refused to believe that He could be alive unless they saw Jesus with their own eyes. We often times remember “Doubting Thomas,” who was not present when Jesus first appeared to the apostles after His resurrection and he refused to believe that Jesus was alive because he had not seen it for himself. Thomas often gets the “bad rap” for doubting, but remember that the other apostles were guilty of doubt until they saw Jesus alive for themselves, and even then some had lingering doubts (cf. Mark 16:10-11, Luke 24:37-43). For this reason, it should not surprise us that doubt is a problem for Christians today. None of us have had the advantage of witnessing the resurrected Lord with our own eyes, so it is possible for us to have the same doubts as the apostles did. However, we have a benefit that they did not yet have—the full revelation of God’s word.

Faith can be hard for people. Simply stated, faith is belief without sight. We believe in many things because we can physically see them, but we have faith if we believe without seeing. When Thomas declared “My Lord and my God,” Jesus replied, “Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed” (John 20:28-29).

When true faith is present, it will demonstrate itself through action. We do things we otherwise would not do because we believe in things we cannot see. “But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith without

your works, and I will show you my faith by my works” (James 2:18). We must learn to believe in God without depending on our eyes. If we refuse to believe because we cannot see with our eyes, then we will never believe in God, for “no man has seen God at any time” (John 1:18). If we will not trust in the unseen God then we will never be pleasing to Him, “But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (Hebrews 11:6).

Faith can be difficult for Christians because so many things in opposition to God are contending for our hearts. God requires us to believe in the unseen things. He also requires us to give up many of the things in this world that we can see. We must make a decision between the unseen God and the visible world. “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). There are also *other* faiths that are contending for our hearts such as false religions, philosophy and the traditions of men (Colossians 2:8). We must realize we are in a spiritual battle and fight against these things that are competing for our hearts. Jude exhorted us to “contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

When people refuse to have faith they take the easy way out. It is easy to doubt, disbelieve and do nothing. Instead of making the effort that is required to believe in Christ and remain faithful, we allow doubts to get the best of us. Faith is not something we can be passive about. Faith requires action, strength and perseverance.

Those who are spiritually lazy open themselves up to doubt and disbelief.

Think about how doubting God and His words affect us:

### **Doubt destroys the foundation of faith.**

The Bible says that our faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 5:4-5). If we allow doubt and disbelief to enter our hearts then we are conquered, and Satan wins. Doubt destroys the foundation because it destroys our ability to be pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6).

**Doubt wipes out the life and energy from an individual.** A Christian who doubts is described by James as “double-minded” and “unstable in all his ways” (James 1:6-8). The doubting Christian is double-minded because his mind is dividing between God and something else. We must purify our hearts and become single-minded for God (James 4:8).

**Doubt leads to failure.** When we doubt the Lord, we become like Peter when he was walking on the water. As long as he kept his focus on the Lord, he was able to walk on water. However, as soon as he took his eyes off of Jesus, he failed. Jesus said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?” (Matthew 14:31).

The responsibility of your faith rests on your shoulders. Regardless of what those around you believe, you have to believe for yourself. Be diligent to have your own faith and erase your doubts.

# What Is Your Life?

*Zack Lee*

James asks, “What is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanished away” (James 4:14). We should be concerned about how much time we have in this life. Any person in their right mind would admit that all men will face death. When we accept the fact that we will not be here forever we have taken the first step in properly using our time while we are here. It is sad to see people go through life without ever really knowing what life is all about. Is your life about accumulating riches? Is your life about soaking up all the worldly pleasures? Solomon gave us the proper direction in life. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man’s all” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Our real purpose in life is to submit to the will of God. If money is all we have at the end of our life, we have failed. If we have lived just for worldly pleasure we have missed our true purpose. Make the best use of your life by serving God!

## **The Manslick Road Speaker**

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## **Schedule of Assemblies**

### **Sunday**

Bible Study – 9:30 am  
Worship – 10:30 am and 6:00 pm

### **Wednesday**

Bible Study and Worship – 7:30 pm

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