

# THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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## Our Elders:

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## Deacons:

*Joe Cronin*

*Jim Hall*

*David Witherspoon*

## Preacher:

*John C. Robertson*

## The Crucifixion of Jesus

Crucifixion was the Roman punishment for slaves, foreigners, and robbers. Josephus records that crucifixion was “the most wretched of deaths.” The one crucified was generally tortured to some extent by flogging before actually being put upon the cross (this would hasten death and reduce the extreme agony associated with the cross). The victim was to carry the cross beam of the cross to the location of his crucifixion. The victim would then be placed upon the already erected and upright beam. A small wooden block or peg protruded out of the beam so that the victim’s body may rest upon it. The peg served as a support to keep the weight of the body from tearing the nails out of the victim’s hands and feet. Once placed upon the cross the victim remained there exposed to elements, flies, insects, birds, and human mockery. The average time of death on the cross was 36 hours. The victim would generally die of gradual suffocation brought on by fatigue (for more info read the ISBE v. 1, pp. 825-830).

Matthew records, “*And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, The place of a skull, they gave him wine to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted it, he would not drink*” (Matt. 27:33-34). Just outside of the Damascus Gate (North side of Jerusalem) is a hill that resembles a skull. The hill is called Calvary (Latin), *Kranion* (Greek), and Golgotha (Hebrew). Matthew does not record the conversation between Jesus and the mourning multitudes (cf. Lk. 23:27-31). Matthew tells us that wine mingled with gall was offered to Jesus. Mark tells us that the other part of the mixture was myrrh (Mk. 15:23). Gall is defined as “bitterness... a bitter ingredient in the analgesic (something that numbs pain) potion... (given to Christ)” (ISBE v. 2; pp. 392). Myrrh is “drugged wine... or a perfumed resinous substance” (ISBE v. 3, pp. 450). Apparently, just before the Lord was to

## Local News:

### Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

### Please keep the following members in your prayers:

**Melissa Witherspoon** will be having gall bladder surgery tomorrow at Kell West Hospital. Keep her and the Witherspoon family in your prayers.

**Madeline Cronin** returned home from her Fort Worth doctors visit with a favorable report. She will have to go back for another check up in two years.

**Cassidy Summers** returned home from seeing the lung specialist in Oklahoma City with a good report. She will continue to be monitored but seems to be doing well.

**Kasey Robertson** is scheduled to have surgery June 24<sup>th</sup> (this coming Wednesday).

### Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

**Stella Davidson**  
696-1030 (Home)

**Calvin York**  
692-0489 (Home).

be crucified, he was offered a mercy drink to dull his senses to the pain he was about to suffer. Jesus tasted the gall and then rejected it. Matthew continues saying, “*And when they had crucified him, they parted his garments among them, casting lots*” (Matt. 27:35). Matthew does not record the statement of Jesus on the cross; i.e., “*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do*” (Lk. 23:34). Neither does Matthew record the conversation between Jesus and his mother Mary (cf. Jn. 19:25-27). The parting of the Lord’s garments fulfilled an OT prophecy found in Psalms 22:18 (cf. Jn. 18:23-24).

Mark tells us that it was the third hour of the day that Jesus was crucified (cf. Mk. 15:25). John; however, tells us that it was the sixth hour (cf. Jn. 19:14). This discrepancy may be explained in that the Jews divided their days into four sections; i.e., 6 to 9, 9 to 12, 12 to 3, and 3 to 6. Mark’s “third hour of the day” was likely the third section of the day which would begin at 12:00 noon. Another explanation is that as both John and Mark used the same Roman method of keeping time (i.e., the third hour would be 6:00 AM and the sixth 9:00 AM). There was about a three hour time frame existing from the sentence of crucifixion and the actual death.

After the Roman soldiers crucified Jesus, “*they sat and watched him there. And they set up over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS*” (Matt. 27:37). John tells us that Pilate wrote this “*accusation*” over the head of Jesus (Jn. 19:19). The crime of Jesus was that he was the “*KING OF THE JEWS.*” When the chief priests saw this, they request that Pilate remove it however Pilate refused their request saying, “*What I have written I have written*” (Jn. 19:22).

Jesus went through the awful ordeal of crucifixion so that you and I may have our sins forgiven (Matt. 26:26). No greater treasure or blessing could be offered unto sinful man. We all have the opportunity, through Christ sacrifice, to live forever with the Lord in paradise! Why not be baptized this day to be redeemed from the consequences of your sins (see Eph. 1:7; Acts 2:38)?

*John C. Robertson*

# Baptism

## Introduction:

Such a simple subject has caused complex issues within various denominational bodies. Some believe baptism is not necessary for salvation and others teach that baptism is a means of being identified with a particular denomination. Some believe that baptism is done at birth and others believe that it can occur at any point of one's life. Some believe baptism to be a sprinkling of water and others believe it to be a submergence in water. With so many views about baptism it is expedient that we study the subject. Let us define baptism, examine why one would be baptized, and then look to some examples of people being baptized.

## I. What is Baptism?

- A. The word "*baptize*" (Greek – *baptizo*) = "to dip, immerse; to cleanse or purify by washing" (Moulton 65). "To dip in or under water" (LS 146). "To submerge... to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to wash, to make clean with water... to overwhelm" (Thayer 94). "Dip" (AG 132). "To dip, be overwhelmed" (Vines 89).
- B. Baptism is defined by the apostle Paul as a burial (Rom. 6:1ff).
- C. Seeing that baptism is a submerging in water it stands to reason that "*much water*" is needed for such an action.
  1. John records, "*And John also was baptizing in Enon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized*" (Jn. 3:23).
  2. The Ethiopian eunuch noted a body of water and concluded that he must be baptized (see Acts 8:36-38).

## II. Why be Baptized?

- A. The apostle Peter gave a crystal clear answer to this question at Acts 2:38. Baptism is for the purpose of being forgiven of sins.
- B. The Bible defines baptism as means whereby man's sins are washed away (Acts 22:16) and the answer of a good conscience (I Pet. 3:20ff).
- C. It is a commandment of God!

## III. Bible Examples of People being Baptized:

- A. Jews on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38)
- B. The Samaritans (Acts 8:12-13)
- C. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-38)
- D. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:18; 22:16)
- E. Cornelius the Gentile and his household (Acts 10:47-48)
- F. Lydia the seller of Purple from Thyatira (Acts 16:15)
- G. The Philippian jailor (Acts 16:32-34)
- H. The Corinthians (Acts 18:8)
- I. The disciples of John (Acts 19:4-5).

## Conclusion:

Baptism is man's way of making manifest his faith in Jesus Christ's promises to forgive. If baptism is not for the forgiveness of sins then what is it for? The Bible tells us that people were baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins. To assign another reason for baptism or to omit it in one's life is to be disobedient to the Lord's will.