

While this is not a contextually accurate use of scripture it at least illustrates the concept of giving book, chapter and verse for our decisions in life through the injection of humor.

We have concluded our series of evening meetings with Mike Collier of Westminster, Co. We have heard good lessons with very practical applications for us that should assist us in teaching the lost. Let us practice the things Mike has taught. Let us strike while the iron is hot.

“Rules for success don’t work unless you do.”  
The Beacon—Electronic Edition

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 Jim Stauffer

**MEETING TIMES**  
 Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM  
 Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM  
 Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

**Lenexa church of Christ**



May 9, 2010

### SPRINKLING FOR BAPTISM Jim Stauffer

What is the problem people have with baptism as taught in Scripture? It seems there is more digression from the scriptural precedent on baptism than any other teaching.

It is generally accepted that sprinkling originated as what was referred to as clinic baptism. That is the pouring or sprinkling of water on one who was perceived to be too sick to be immersed. One of the first known instances was a man named Novatian in A.D. 251. Of course it is not hard to see that this gradually became accepted and used unilaterally once people were desensitized to the deviation from the command of God.

We all remember Jesus’ teaching in Mark 16:16 that said all who believed and were baptized would be saved. We also understand baptism to be a transliteration of the Greek word *baptisma* as baptize is of the Greek word *baptizo*. That really means we actually use the same word with just a letter or two changed to convert it to English. These two Greek words, a verb and a noun, are defined by Strong’s Dictionary of Bible Words as; immersion, to dip repeatedly, to submerge. We further understand that baptism as Strong’s has defined, accompanied faith in Christ in every case of conversion in the New Testament.

We can find then, no scriptural authority for clinical baptism or any baptism other than the immersion taught in Scripture. Are we to believe it was over 200 years after Jesus’ teaching on baptism before someone became as sick as Novatian and was in need of baptism for the remission of sins? Of course not! It was over 200 years before someone had the audacity to value his physical condition so much higher than his

spiritual that he would reject the command of the Lord and claim the blessing that comes from obedience to the same command.

Let me suggest that most of the problems we have with compliance with Scripture are because of earthly or temporal concerns. This reflects poorly on our obedience to God. It indicates we are finding it difficult to walk in the steps of Jesus (1 Pet. 2:21) as He lived and died in obedience to the Heavenly Father. (Heb. 5:8,9)

Once we have decided the commands of God are too stringent for us to follow, there is literally no limit to what our imagination can produce. Human reasoning has then overruled the authority of Scripture and the sky is the limit for transgression from that point forward. (See the audio on the sermon 5/(/10 at lenexachurchofchrist.org for further comments on this point.)

Now I have a very obvious concern about this specific transgression; sprinkling for baptism. My question is, "What results from this action?" There are two people who are guilty and thus affected when this is practiced. First, the one who is seeking salvation is left without it because he has not been baptized as Jesus commanded. Second, the person who offered this solution has perverted the gospel revealed in Scripture as Paul states in Gal. 1:8,9 and is as a result, "accursed" just as Paul promised.

Now why have I written this commentary on a religious practice that is so widespread? I realize this will not put a stop to it. My hope is the readers will be able to understand the principle of obedience from this discussion.

If one is truly on his deathbed and recognizes his need to obey the gospel in order to be saved, there is nothing such as physical well being that should prevent him from complying with Jesus' command. If he wants salvation he will obey and there will be nothing to stand in his way.

If a Christian has heard the request of the sinner to be baptized for the remission of sins in order to be saved, he will do all he can to assist him in that effort.

When the two people have a wholesome attitude toward the Word of God, neither will participate in anything that falls short of obedience. Therefore, they will reject the very idea of sprinkling in the place of immersion simply to offer convenience in the place of obedience.

If we can understand the principle involved in this issue, we can then understand many other principles of Scripture that are violated every day in the religious world. We then become able to follow Scripture rather than the ideas of men and please God with lives of devoted obedience. (Acts 5:29)

### COMEDY CENTRAL DEVELOPING 'JC' CARTOON

*Open Season on Jesus*

Although too frightened to air uncut a South Park episode that spoofed the Muslim prophet Mohammed, *Comedy Central* has no qualms about targeting the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ:

As part of the network's upfront presentation to advertisers (full slate here), Comedy Central is set to announce "JC", a half-hour show about Christ wanting to escape the shadow of his "powerful but apathetic father" and live a regular life in New York City.

In the show, God is preoccupied with playing video games while Christ, "the ultimate fish out of water", tries to adjust to life in the big city.

Don't worry though. This will not only be highly funny, but comedy in its purist form:

"In general, comedy in purist form always makes some people uncomfortable", said Comedy Central's head of original programming Kent Alterman.

Oh, *that's* why it makes people uncomfortable.

I think running scared from threatening Muslims while declaring open season on Jesus and Christians is more like cowardice in its purist form.

Posted by Alan Cornett at theoseb.es.blogspot.com

### THE NEW PREACHER

A new preacher moved into town and went out one Saturday to visit his community. All went well until he came to one house. It was obvious that someone was home, but no one came to the door even after he knocked several times. Finally, he took out his card, wrote on the back, "Revelation 3:20" and stuck it in the door. The next day, as he was counting the offering he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was a notation "Genesis 3:10". Upon opening his Bible to the passage he let out a roar of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 reads: "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Genesis 3:10 says, "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.