

small in stature they appeared to the inhabitants of Canaan. They also had all experienced the power and deliverance of God who brought them out of Egypt through the ten plagues and the parting of the Red Sea.

But with all of the exact same experiences, and seeing the exact same things, they came to very different conclusions. Ten of the spies said it was impossible to take Canaan, while two said they could. The truth was that they could, if they trusted in God. However, the multitude believed the ten spies and they couldn't take the land. They were not of the truth. They saw and heard, but they did not truly see or hear.

What causes one person to see giants and be scared, and another

to be confident? What causes one person to believe in Jesus, and another to reject him? What really is happening is that those who see the giants of Canaan and are scared aren't seeing everything. They are only seeing one piece. They only see the giants, but they refuse to see God.

Those that reject Jesus hear him, but they refuse to see God in Him. God is just as real as everything that we can physically see or hear.

It is through that knowledge of God that we can see things as they truly are. But it also does you no good unless you come to accept God and the truth for yourself. ~

by Eric Hamilton

In His own words...

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

John 8.32

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth....And for their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they also may be sanctified by the truth."

John 17.17 and 19

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Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

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Assembly Schedule

Sunday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service ___ 10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service ___ 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class for all ages ___ 7:00 PM

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NAVARRE MESSENGER

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Water: An Amazing Substance



Water is truly an amazing substance, yet it is so common, so abundant that we take it for granted. Its chemical composition is the bonding of two gases, hydrogen and oxygen and it is identified in a chemist's notation as H2O. We are familiar with its various forms from the gaseous, steam; to the liquid; to the solid, ice and snow. We drink it, bathe in it, swim in it, float over it, generate electricity with it, soak the grass with it, buy special clothes for it when it falls from the sky and on and on we could go about all the uses we make of the common and remarkable substance called water given to us by God.

God has given us water not simply as an element of our physical life, but also as an object lesson to teach us spiritual truths. Water is so much a part of our lives and covers so much of this planet that it can be said that it "day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where its voice is not heard. Its line has gone out through all the earth, and its words to the end of the world" (Psalms 19:2-4). Listen and learn the lessons water can teach us.

It Refreshes
Out in the hot sun all day working hard, your throat begins to dry

out and your tongue feels parched. You try to lick your lips and only end up feeling like you ran sandpaper across them. As the sweat drips from your brow, a picture comes to your mind of a tall clear glass of ice water, the ice cubes tinkling invitingly against the inside of the glass and beadlets of water sparkling on the outside of the glass. You almost tumble over your own feet in your rush inside for a drink of water to refresh your throat, body and mind from the thirst the heat and work has whipped into you.

How refreshing water can be. David on one occasion desired to be refreshed with water from a

certain well and said with longing, "Oh, that someone would give me a drink of the water from the well of Bethlehem, which is by the gate" (2 Sam. 23:15). Three mighty men broke into the camp of the Philistines just to obtain the water that would refresh David. Jesus praised those who refreshed little ones with "only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple" (Matt. 10:42). Jesus knew how precious it was to have a refreshing drink of water as in His agony on the cross He cried out, "I thirst" (John 19:28).

God uses our physical thirst for water, our longing for refreshment to teach us the need for spiritual thirst. David expressed the thirst of a soul longing to be refreshed in the presence of his God. "O God, you are my God; early will I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh longs for you in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water" (Psa. 63:1). As if in response to David's plea for his soul to be quenched, God promised to provide the water that would satisfy and refresh the thirsty soul, "For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert. The parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water..." (Isaiah 35:6-7).

Jesus told the woman of Samaria that He was the source of the refreshing living water promised by God. "Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into eternal life" (John 4:13-14). Immediately the woman desired to drink of the water Jesus offered.

The apostles of Jesus later explained how thirsty souls might be refreshed by God's living water. One must repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins, "so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 2:38; 3:19). Souls that are as eager as David to be refreshed in the presence of God will humbly submit to the command of baptism in water and they will indeed receive the forgiveness of their sins and the refreshing living water of God.

It Cleanses

After a hard day of backbreaking work, nothing feels quite as good as a long hot shower or bath. To soak up the water and scrub off the sweat and grime not just cleans the body, but makes one feel like a new person. We use gallons of water every day to clean our bodies, our clothes, our dishes, our cars, our pets, and anything else that we can reach with a bucket and a scrub brush.

Under the Law of Moses, cleansing with water was a frequent requirement. The frequency of cleansing with water for the priests required a bronze laver of water to be placed in the tabernacle courtyard between the altar and the door of the tabernacle. Moses was commanded concerning the laver, "you shall put water in it, for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the Lord, they shall wash with water, lest they die" (Exodus 30:19-20).

Again the Lord has given us the physical quality of water and its

use in cleansing to teach us a lesson concerning spiritual cleansing. Just as dirt will make our body filthy and require water for cleansing, so also sin will make our soul filthy and require water for cleansing. David fervently prayed to be cleansed of his sins, "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin ... purge me with hyssop and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Psa. 51:2, 7). The Lord promised in the Old Testament a means of cleansing, "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and uncleanness" (Zech. 13:1).

Under the New Testament, the Lord kept his promise and sent his son, Jesus Christ, to open up the way to the fountain whereby those who love God might be washed, cleansed, purified and purged of their sins. God has ordained that for one to be cleansed of his sins he must in faith submit to baptism in water, "the washing of regeneration" (Titus 3:5). Saul was commanded by God through Ananias, "Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (Acts 22:16). One must be baptized not to remove the filth of the flesh, but in order to give the answer of a good conscience toward God (1 Pet. 3:21). Only those who have had their hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and their "bodies washed with pure water" can "draw near (to God) with a true heart and in full assurance of faith" (Hebrews 10:22).

It Is Essential To Life

Water is essential for life to exist on this planet. All creatures require water to live. The human

body is three quarters water and uses water for digestion, circulation, respiration, temperature control, waste removal and many more functions. While one can live without food for three weeks, one cannot live more than three days without water. Hagar and Ishmael would have died in the wilderness without water when their skin of water was used up if the Lord had not opened Hagar's eyes to find a well of water (Gen. 21:14-15).

Throughout the ages God has made water not only a requirement for physical life but also for spiritual life. During the Patriarchal age, water became the means through which God saved Noah and his family. "God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was prepared, in which few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water" (1 Peter 3:20). Later, God saved the nation of

Israel from the slavery of Egypt through the water of the Red Sea. Under the Law of Moses, God required that the priests wash themselves with water before entering the tabernacle in service to God and failure to do so meant death (Exodus 30:18-20).

Just as God requires water for our physical life and as he used water as a means to save those under the Patriarchal and Mosai-cal dispensations, God now requires water as an essential element for salvation under the dispensation of his dear Son. Jesus laid down the need of water for spiritual life to Nicodemus, "Most assuredly, I say unto you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). Before Jesus ascended into heaven he told his apostles, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not be-

lieve will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). Because of God's requirement of baptism in water and its essentiality to our spiritual life, Peter wrote that as Noah and his family were saved through water, "There is an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism" (1 Peter 3:21).

What is truly amazing about water is that the very element which we desperately need and use so much, God has blessed us with in exceeding abundance in the form of dew, rain, ponds, lakes, creeks, streams, rivers, seas and oceans. Just as so very few need to die physically for lack of water, no one needs to continue in spiritual death for lack of baptism in water in obedience to Jesus. "See here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?" (Acts 8:36). ~

by Wayne Greeson

What is Truth?

During Jesus' trial before Pilate, Jesus made a statement concerning truth: "I have come into the world to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice." To that Pilate replied: "What is truth?" (John 18:37-38)

Let's consider two things about truth that we can learn from this brief exchange. First, there is such a thing as definitive truth. There is a way that things are, and there is a way that things are not. Second, there are people

who will refuse to see truth, even when it's proclaimed to them. They may outright reject it, or they may simply throw up their hands as Pilate did, and declare truth an impossibility to grasp.

Truth is not something that is always easy to see. Two different people looking at one thing can come away with very different opinions of what that thing was. Someone can make a speech, and different people can come away with radically different ideas on what was actually said. The

one who sees things as they truly are is one that Jesus describes as being "of the truth." This gives the idea of being in alignment with the truth. In order to see truth, one has to be in sync with the truth. Many people heard Jesus, but only some accepted it for what it really was.

Consider the twelve spies that were sent into the land of Canaan after the Israelites fled from Egypt (Numbers 13-14). They all saw the same things. They all saw how good the land was, and how