



# Welcome

3/2/2025

**John 3:16**

We, the families of the Village Bible Church do lovingly welcome you to this fellowship with us in the blessings of the Gospel.

As a body of believers, we are unified under the absolute authority and sufficiency of Scripture. We exist to equip the saints through preaching, teaching, and biblical discipleship which results in genuine worship, progressive sanctification, the exercise of spiritual gifts in Christian service, and evangelization of the lost. In everything, our goal and desire is to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ and bring glory to God.

## Announcements

Hymn #39 Praise Him! Praise Him!

Greeting

Offertory Hannah Balman

Hymn #310 The Old Rugged Cross

Lord's Supper

Hymn #349 Complete in Thee

Message

Hymn #349 Complete in Thee

*As we leave this place, we are entering the Mission Field—  
May the Lord find us Faithful!*

## Missionary of the Month

**AMAZING GRACE**

**BAPTIST CAMP**

**2 PETER 3:18**

**But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen.**

The camp is in Ottawa, KS. Their goal is to remove each camper from the constant bombardment of worldly influences and surround them with Godly preaching, people, and activities. We will be sending children to both the Junior and Teen camp this year.

If you would like to give a special gift to this ministry this month, feel free to put it in the offering plate marked accordingly.

### **This Week:**

**TONIGHT 6PM**  
Prayer Service

**WEDNESDAY 7PM**  
Bible Study/Kids Club

### *Verse Map Study*

Titus 2:4-5

All Ladies are invited to join us in a new verse mapping study this year. We will work on a verse(s) each month on our own at home and discuss it at our monthly meeting. Our first verses are listed above. If you do not have a workbook and would like one, please see Debbie.

Camp Fundraiser Dinner

March 9

RSVP on the ledge by March 5

### **FAMILY INFORMATION**

**Our goal is to promote families worshipping together. We believe children learn much from sharing the worship experience with adults. Please be considerate of others and keep children in their seats and as quiet as possible. Pews in the rear of the Sanctuary are reserved for families with small children.**

Cry room - Back of Sanctuary

Nursery 6 mo. - 3 yrs.

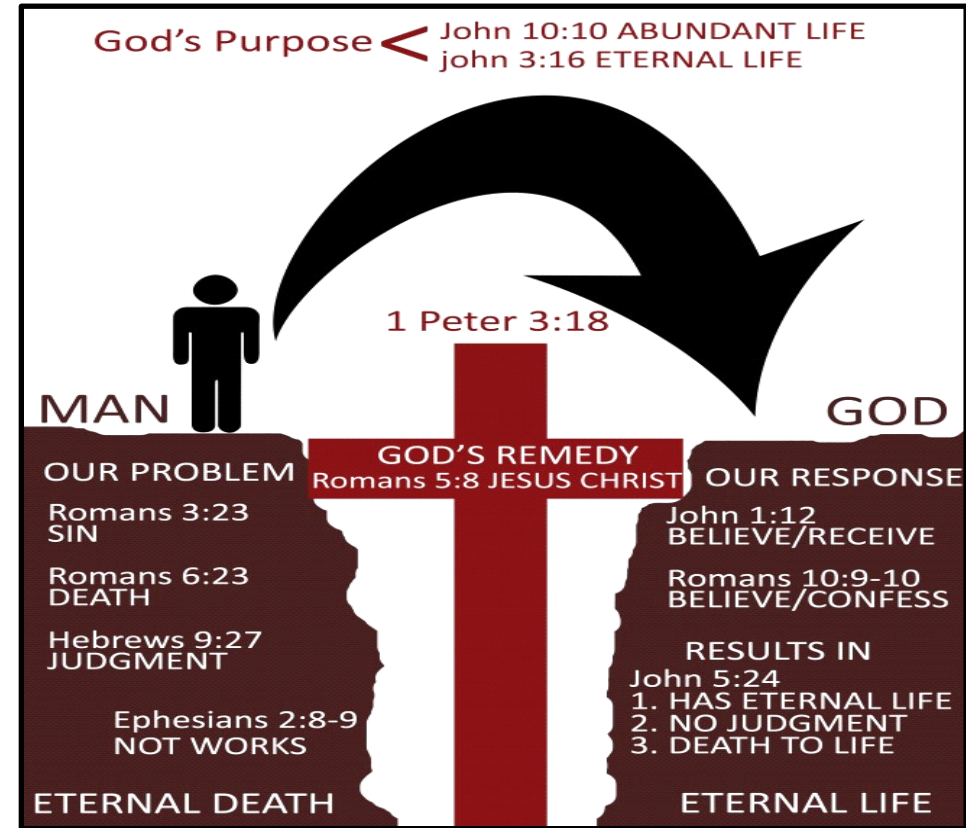
Debbie P

March 2, 2025

Pastor JJ Sexton

# Village Bible Church

Our Mission is to Preach the Word and to Love the People  
“that we may present every man complete in Christ Jesus”



Sunday Morning Sunday School  
 Sunday Morning Worship Service  
 Sunday Evening Prayer Service  
 Wednesday Evening Bible Study  
 Services available for all ages

9:30 a.m.  
 10:45 a.m.  
 6:00 p.m.  
 7:00 p.m.

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“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son,  
 that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

John 3:16

## John and His Prophetic Witness Luke 3:15–20

John's ministry was two-fold—He prepared people for the Messiah through preaching a baptism of repentance (v. 3) and he was a prophetic witness to the coming of the Messiah.

v. 15 - The people were in great expectation of the coming of Christ.

- The expectation of Christ was generated by John's baptism ministry.
- John's baptism was for repentance from sin as a pledge to receive Christ, as if ceremonially purifying themselves to become a new convert to Christ.

v. 16–17 - John gave prophetic witness to Christ (revealed and predicted truth about Him).

Christ is greater than John.

- Ordinarily, the greater comes first, then those who follow.
- John saw himself as unworthy to be even a servant of Christ.
- John was testifying to the divinity of Person of Christ.

Christ's baptism was greater than John's.

- John's baptism was only by water, symbolic, and humanly.
- Christ's baptism is by the Holy Spirit, real, and divine.
- The "baptism by the Holy Spirit" John spoke of should be taken in its broader meaning including all the ministry of the Holy Spirit: regeneration (John 3:3), uniting believers to Christ (Gal 3:27), placing believers into the body of Christ (1Co 12:13), indwelling (Joh 14:7), sealing (Eph 4:30), a guarantee (Eph 1:14), filling (Eph 5:18), fruit (Gal 5:22–23), gifts (Rom 12:3–8).
- Christ's baptism is also by fire (purifying) - **Malachi 3:2–3 But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness.**

Christ is the Judge.

- Christ will separate the wheat from the chaff.
- Christ will separate out the righteous and bring them into His kingdom.
- Christ will separate out the wicked and destroy them

v. 18–20 - John's witness was rejected.

- Some received the preaching of John.
- Herod and Herodias, whom he stole away from his half-brother Philip, rejected John just as king Ahab and Jezebel rejected Elijah.
- Ending the account of John's witness with his arrest is meant to emphasize the sobering reality of the rejection of John's ministry and the future rejection of Christ and His ministry.

Has Jesus baptized you with the Holy Spirit? **Acts 2:38 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.**

## 'Why Then Do You Baptize?'

While preaching in the Judean wilderness, John the Baptist proclaimed, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Mt. 3:2). The Jewish people who came to John to be baptized did so because they had repented: They had changed their minds and acknowledged their sin after hearing his message of the soon-coming Messiah. John's words stirred their hearts to be ready for the Messiah's arrival (v. 6).

When Messiah Jesus Himself came to John to be baptized, He did so not because He needed to repent but "to fulfill all righteousness" (v. 15).

His baptism was part of His divine plan. In being baptized, Jesus demonstrated both submission to God the Father and identification with those He had come to save.

Though the religious leaders from Jerusalem questioned who John was (Jn. 1:19, 21), Scripture does not record widespread bewilderment at his immersing people in the Jordan River. In fact, the religious leaders' only question for John regarding baptism was, "Why then do you baptize if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" (v. 25).

This lack of confusion is telling. First-century Jews were accustomed to immersion baptism because it was a part of worship. The Torah stipulates that those who became ceremonially unclean were, in certain cases, to immerse themselves in water (Lev. 15:19–30; Num. 19:18–19). Though such cleansing may have held some hygienic benefit, its purpose was purity in God's eyes.

During the Second Temple period, Jewish people went to designated pools called mikvaot (singular, mikveh) for this ritual cleansing. Archaeologists have unearthed ancient mikvaot throughout Israel, especially in Jerusalem and particularly near the Temple Mount. Some scholars believe the pools of Bethesda and Siloam were constructed as mikvaot for the thousands of Jewish pilgrims who came to Jerusalem for the holy days each year.

Interestingly, the mikveh was not then, nor is it today, to be entered carelessly. Maimonides, the 12th-century Jewish sage, wrote, "'Uncleanness' is not mud or filth which water can remove, but is a matter of scriptural decree and dependent on the intention of the heart. Therefore, the Sages have said, 'If a man immerses himself, but without special intention, it is as though he has not immersed himself at all.'"

Similarly, believers in Jesus are baptized today, not because the water will wash away physical or spiritual uncleanness, but because their "special intention" is to publicly proclaim their repentance and identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3–4).

*Ty Perry is the assistant to the director of North American Ministries for The Friends of Israel Gospel Ministry, a Bible teacher, and the host of Geshet podcast.*