

SUMMER
2026
Newsletter



**NORTHEAST OHIO
BIBLE COLLEGE**

We Major in Ministry



www.neobc.org

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From the
desk of the
president,
Joe Croft



First of all, my hope and prayer is that you are not only enjoying the newsletters, but learning from them. My goal in these articles is to focus on the most-often debated Scriptures when it comes to salvation. It's kind of an important topic, don't you agree? In this summer newsletter, I want to focus on three Scriptures that are mentioned when I am talking with others about their eternal home. Let's take a look.

The first one is I John 1:9. It says "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

So people will argue and make the point that baptism/immersion is not mentioned in the forgiveness of sins and therefore not necessary.

The question that needs to be asked is: to whom is the Apostle John writing?

The answer is **CHRISTIANS**. They are already Christians. You see, the instructions for a Christian and a non-Christian are different. When one is outside of Christ, the commands are belief, repentance, confession, immersion, and a life of obedience. Then, as a Christian, we don't run and be immersed every time we sin. [I'd buy a pool for easy access.]

God's Word in I John says to the Christians in Asia Minor and to those who are Christians now to confess our sins, repent of them, and God is faithful and just to forgive us of the sin[s].

Next, let's look at the second Scripture that people will debate. Romans 10:9-10 reads, "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation." It is true that if these were the only verses in the Bible, I would agree. Here's what I want us to know and understand: four chapters ago in Romans 6:1-6, Paul, an inspired apostle, wrote about repentance and immersion. Repentance is mentioned in 6:1 in that we are told not to continue in sin. Now look at 6:3-4. We are baptized into His death because we are buried with Him and then raised. How? In newness of life! We are born again. As Jesus died, was buried, and was resurrected, we participate in the re-enactment of it all by dying to sin, by being buried with Him in the water, and being raised/ resurrected to newness of life. Praise Him!

The point is again that, as people point to Romans 10:9-10, let's put it together with other verses. Who wants to leave out Romans 6:1-6? Not me and hopefully not you.

Now, let's discuss the third and last set of verses that causes much dispute.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God... Rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

It's Acts 16:30-31: "...and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they [Paul and Silas] said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household."

Again, these verses, by themselves, appear to prove that immersion is not essential. The question is, what is the very first thing that Paul, Silas, or any Christian needs to have people do? It's to believe that Jesus is the Christ. The jailer needed to believe first; that got him to first base. If anyone doesn't believe that Jesus is the Christ, then the rest of the Gospel message is useless. Now, when we read verses 32-34, we see they taught the jailer further resulting in his immersion. When did they rejoice greatly? When he believed or after he was immersed? We see that it was after he believed and was immersed. There is so much more "meat" to these debate questions. That being said, I tried to make it as simple as possible. Lastly, I hear comments on my articles from some of you. I really would like hearing from more of you.

Again, I hope you learn from the teachings and now have the tools to teach others more effectively for the Kingdom.

Be blessed,
Joe

As always, we, at NEOBC, try to create win/win situations. So, here's one for you to consider. Church leaders: Look at your congregation. Look for a member whom you think would be a great fit for ministry. Usually, there's at least one member in every church, and look for a member that you think would be a great fit for ministry. Then, support that person when he makes that positive decision. For those who have been church members for a long time, remember that's the way it used to be. Let's get back to that and be intentional about pursuing ones for the greatest possible work on Earth !



CONGRATULATIONS!
to Lloyd Willis Jr on receiving
his Bachelor of Arts
Diploma - Christian Ministry
from Northeast Ohio Bible
College on
Thursday, May 21, 2026.
He is currently serving as the
lead Evangelist at Tri-State
Christian Church of Christ
located on Calcutta-Smith
Ferry Road.

We are all familiar with Matthew 5:13 where Jesus tells His followers to be "the salt of the earth."

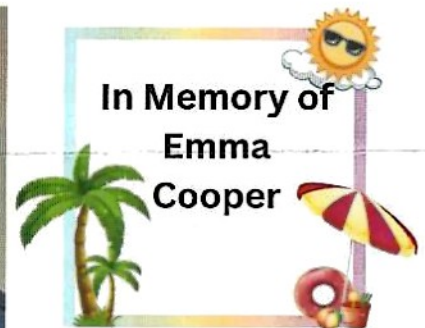
Most of us know that salt on meats and fish preserves and purifies it. Do you wonder how it does that?

Salt absorbs the water/ moisture out of the food. Water is what holds the bacteria or germs. Therefore, by absorbing or removing the bacteria or germs, it preserves and purifies the food.

We, as Christians, are to be like salt: to preserve and purify the world by removing sin out of the world. We understand what happens if we don't spread the salt, the Gospel, to others. It rots and contaminates. Ugh !

Let's be what Jesus has asked us to be: the salt of the earth.

Joe Croft



In March, we lost a pillar to our college community. Emma went home to be with her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on March 18. She was a dear woman to all who knew her and is missed deeply. She leaves a lasting impact on us all.

Northeast Ohio Bible College thanks all those who donated memorial contributions in her memory.

We also thank you for the prayers and cards that were sent.

GET INVOLVED WITH NEOBC by:
Prayer - Cover us in your prayers.

Partner - Become a financial partner with us.

We are a 501(c)3 non-profit.

Participate - Join us for a class either in person or online.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God... Rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

Let's go CHRISTIANS... STAND UP... Share about the TRUTH of the rainbow. Always SHARE God's truth.
The rainbow is a beautiful symbol: one of promise, hope, covenant, true love (God's love).

The rainbow...

God's symbol.

It always was, is, and always will be His!

It's a symbol of a promise God made to Noah and He still makes to us today.

The rainbow's seven colors = perfection in the Bible.

It is NOT a symbol of pride, lust, adultery, sinful lifestyles.

The use of a six-colored item (Six) represents incompleteness, mankind, evil. (is an abomination)

We do not need to take back the rainbow or reclaim the rainbow or hide or be weary of the rainbow.

The rainbow cannot be something that God never said it was. Christians can embrace the rainbow and its TRUTH fully.

We need to love those who are lost and pray for them, but we do not need to fear that which God provided as a promise.

We encourage you look up into the sky when it is raining and the sun is out and search for that promise that God still gives us glimpses of today to remind us that HE is STILL on the THRONE, HE is STILL in CONTROL, and that the RAINBOW is STILL HIS COVENANT PROMISE WITH HIS CHILDREN.

The rainbow, although it brings great joy and happiness, also reminds us of God's wrath. We like to think of the story of Noah and the Ark as a beautiful story of all these sweet animals and a few humans floating on this giant boat. We forget the gravity of the story, though. It's a story of punishment, a story of loss, a story of death, a story of sinfulness. See, we forget that the story of Noah is about a world full of sinful, disobedient, unrepentant people. We fail to see this because we get so focused on the story of Noah and his family and all of those sweet animals. God flooded the WHOLE Earth, not just part of it, not just one country, but the LITERAL WHOLE ENTIRE EARTH - all because the people were disobedient, living sinful lives, living how they wanted to live, not caring that there WAS a God who created them for Himself. I don't know how many years God let this go on, but finally He had enough and instructed Noah to build the ark. Noah, being obedient, did as God commanded him to do. The story unfolds and the flood happens. After 40 days and 40 nights the rains stopped. After a while Noah and his sons got off the ark and God made a covenant with them.

In Genesis 9:9-17 (NASB20) it says, "Now behold, I Myself am establishing My covenant with you, and with your descendants after you; and with every living creature that is with you: the birds, the livestock, and every animal of the earth with you; of all that comes out of the ark, every animal of the earth."

"I establish My covenant with you; and all flesh shall never again be eliminated by the waters of a flood, nor shall there again be a flood to destroy the earth."

God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I am making between Me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations;

I have set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall serve as a sign of a covenant between Me and the earth.

"It shall come about, when I make a cloud appear over the earth, that the rainbow will be seen in the cloud, and I will remember My covenant, which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and never again shall the water become a flood to destroy all flesh."

"When the rainbow is in the cloud, then I will look at it, to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."

And God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant which I have established between Me and all flesh that is on the earth."

From Noah and his sons the world repopulates, making us all of one race, the human race. We are different due to the regions where we live which may make our skin tones different, our features different, but we are all ONE race. No one ethnicity is any better than any other ethnicity. We all have our unique abilities and talents. We need to be lifting each other up and encouraging each other, not saying one person is better than another or that one person is inferior to another. We need to work together and share our uniquenesses.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God... Rightly dividing the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CLASSES COMING THIS FALL:

Fall semester will begin: August 3, 2026

Monday 9 - 11:50 a.m. The book of Hebrews - Don Cooper

Monday 6 - 8 p.m. Christian Evidences - Mark Bourne in Florida

Tuesday 9 - 11:50 a.m. The book of Matthew - Don Cooper

Tuesday 2 - 3 p.m. Discipleship - Faron Franklin in Kentucky

Tuesday 6 - 8 p.m. Biblical Theology part II - Jason Carnley in Pennsylvania

Wednesday 9 - 9:50 a.m. Greek - Don Cooper (in person only)

Thursday 6 - 8 p.m. The book of Exodus - Kevin Ziegler in Florida

Watch our website: <https://www.neobc.org/>

and our

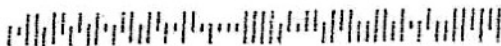
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For updates and registration



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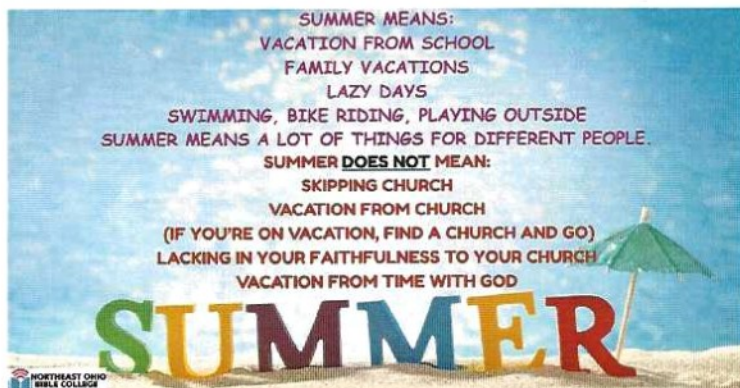


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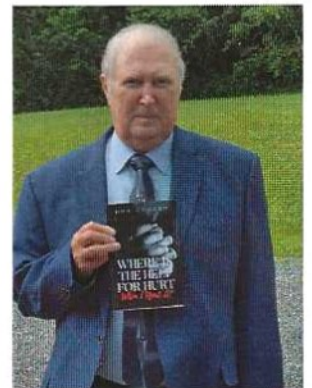


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FOREVER/USA

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Just a reminder
Don's book is out.
We have copies in
the office if you
would like to
purchase one
directly from us, or
you can find his
book online.



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