

# Reflections

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A Weekly Publication Of The Pine Street Church Of Christ

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Pine Street  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
429 Pine Street  
New Martinsville, WV  
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## ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sunday Bible Study  
9:45 AM

Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM & 6:30 PM

Wednesday Bible Study  
7:30 PM

## RADIO PROGRAM

"For The Glory Of God"  
8:45-9:00 AM  
MAGIC 99.5 FM  
Cable Channel 15

WEB SITE  
www.pinestreetcoc.com

*Reflections* is a weekly publication of the Pine Street church of Christ including Bible-based articles for the spiritual edification and education of all readers. Please contact us if you have comments or questions about the content of the paper.

## Real Mothers Living In A Real World

By Jeremy D. Joy

**M**other's Day is a special day when we honor our mothers by sending cards and flowers and buying gifts, but it is not a time of celebration for everyone. It can be extremely painful. Some women have no children; some have lost their mother; some have a bad relationship with their mother; and some feel guilty for not living

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**We shower our moms with presents, but what do they really need from us?**

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up to the unrealistic expectations of their family. How can we pay tribute to our mothers without adding to the heartache?

Proverbs 31:10-31, the usual text for a Mother's Day sermon, describes the "ideal" woman, which all wives and mothers should strive to model. However, it is impossible to meet the "ideal" standard with no shortcomings just as none of us are perfect without sin. We live in the real world, not the fairy tale world of television and the movies.

In the "ideal" world, nothing bad happens. The "ideal" mother has a perfect body and three beautiful children. She lives in a nice neighborhood and drives a new car. Her children are star athletes and graduate



**I will meditate on Your precepts, and  
contemplate Your ways.  
— Psalm 119:18**

with honors. She has a Master's degree and owns and operates a business. In the "real" world, there are problems. The "real" mother knows she will never look like she did in high school. She visits her son in prison or her daughter's grave. She lives in a run-down apartment and struggles to make ends meet. She takes whatever job she finds. This is the real world!

We shower our moms with presents, but what do they really need from us? They need our love, understanding, and patience as they do their best in less than ideal circumstances. Living in the real world is no excuse for inappropriate conduct, but it provides a frame of reference that is needed in churches

# What Baptism Will And Will Not Do

By Jeremy D. Joy

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**B**efore His ascension, Jesus had some last minute instructions for the apostles: "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20). He wanted them to share His story with people all over the world and then baptize them.

Even though some in religion minimize the importance of baptism, it was a vital part of the message that the apostles preached. The cases of conversion in the book of Acts show that conversion is not complete until one submits to baptism in water. If you would choose to be baptized today, what would it mean in your life?

Baptism is meaningful, but it does not eliminate the problems of life including physical suffering or financial hardship although it enables us to endure them. Furthermore, it does not end the conflict with Satan. We will continue to face temptation just as Jesus was tempted following His baptism (Mark 1:9-13).

However, in baptism, we are united with Jesus and His death including the benefits that we receive from His blood (Romans 6:3-4). We also enter into a special relationship with God through Jesus when we are baptized as we become one of His children (Galatians 3:26-27). It is no surprise that the Bible says that baptism saves (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism may have certain limitations, but the positives certainly outweigh the negatives to the extent that it should motivate us to be baptized with no reservations (Acts 22:16).

# Pine Street News And Notes

Members of our church family who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Judy Haught** is at home recovering from surgery.

Others who are sick and in need of our prayers: **Crystal Shockley's** grandmother is in the hospital with pneumonia. She is not well at this time

The Training Class will be Sunday, May 18. The schedule is posted on the bulletin board.

**Jeremy** will be preaching for the church at Ravenswood this morning as a part of their Gospel Meeting. **Greg Yost** will be preaching in his absence.

Preaching reports from **Kent Clark** and **Daniel Ruegg** are posted on the bulletin board.

Check the bulletin board for Gospel Meetings throughout the Ohio Valley.

Is there someone who needs help or encouragement? Look for opportunities to serve one another.

The Scripture reading today is: Psalm 119:49-56.

The sermons today are: "To Be Announced" (AM) and "Living Real Christianity" (PM).