

# The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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## WHEN THE NUMBER OF DISCIPLES MULTIPLIED

Larry R. Ping II

Most every Christian I know prays for and works towards the physical growth of the Lord’s Church. There is Biblical precedent for this. At the advent of the Lord’s Church, “about three thousand souls” were baptized (Acts 2:41). Later, the number of those who “believed” ballooned to “about five thousand” (Acts 4:4). Shortly thereafter, the Bible reports “And in those days, when the number of disciples was multiplied” (Acts 6:1). While growth of the Lord’s body is a wonderful thing, it has the potential to bring with it issues needing addressed, needing solved or altogether needing eliminated. As the number of disciples grows, be on the lookout for...

**1) Murmuring.** Such was the case in Acts 6:1. To “murmur” is to “carry on a secret debate among people; to show displeasure or complain, primarily privately.” Identifying issues is important, but we must be careful to curb complaining,

for with such the Lord is not pleased (I Cor. 10:10). The apostle commanded “Do all things without murmurings and disputings” (Php. 2:14).

### 2) Neglected

**Members.** This was the circumstance in Acts 6:1 when “there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.” As a local body grows, the possibility of overlooking identified members increases. I Cor. 12:14 indicates “the body is not one member, but many.” Each member of a local body is “necessary” (I Cor. 12:22). If one member suffers, “all the members suffer with it” (I Cor. 12:26). James’ commanded “to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction” (Jam. 1:27). Be cautious in not neglecting members of God’s family, they each are precious.

### 3) Biblical Patterns

**To Resolve Troubles.** The apostles instructed the brethren to “look ye out among you seven men...whom we may

appoint over this business” (Acts 6:3). This was so the apostles could give themselves “continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4). As local flocks of God’s people grow, certain matters are bound to arise. As they do, good elders will ask “what saith the scripture” (Rom. 4:3)? Good leaders will seek and find a pattern in the Bible to help remedy the issue (II Tim. 1:13).

### 4) Continued

**Growth.** Were you aware even difficult circumstances can lead to further development and progress? Once the issue had been alleviated, “the word of God increased; and the number of disciples in Jerusalem multiplied greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith” (Acts 6:7). When murmuring is muffled, local members are looked after and the Bible serves as a template to conquer concerns, more growth will come. Try it!

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# AND NOW WHY TARRIEST THOU?

Larry R. Ping II

As Saul and Ananias finally met, and teaching had been done, Ananias asked “And now why tarried thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). This is an excellent question to those who are putting off baptism. Why are you waiting? Why do some tarry? Some tarry because...

**1) They Believe Baptism Is Not Necessary For Salvation.** The Lord’s statements contradict such teaching. “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mk. 16:16). Baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38) and causes one to be put “into Christ” (Gal. 3:27). “In Christ” is where one can find “all spiritual blessings” (Eph. 1:3), “redemption” (Rom. 3:24), and “hope” (I Cor. 15:19). It is in Him we can become a “new creature” (II Cor. 5:17), find “salvation” (II Tim. 2:10) and gain “eternal life” (I Jn. 5:11).

The book of Acts tells of those who were baptized while away from home (Acts 2:5-41; Acts 16:14-15), while travelling (Acts 8:26-40), and in the middle of the night (Acts 16:25-33). How can one know all these things and teach baptism is not necessary?

**2) They Believe A Previous Baptism Has Saved Them.** Scores of folks have had water sprinkled or poured on them as babes. Yet others, not knowing what the purpose or result of baptism is, are baptized. Candidates for the “one baptism” (Eph. 4:5) must possess the ability to “believe” (Mk. 16:16), “repent” (Acts 2:38) and orally confess “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” (Acts 8:37).

Days-old children have not the capability to do any of these and therefore are not subjects of Bible baptism. Others have been baptized, but did not understand the purpose of Great Commission baptism (Matt. 28:18-20). Such was the case in Acts 19. Paul happened upon about twelve men who had been baptized with “John’s

baptism.” When they heard Paul teach on Christ Jesus, “they were baptized in the name of the Lord” (Acts 19:5). When one understands baptism is “for” the remission of sins and that the Lord will add them to the Church, or kingdom, he then is a candidate for Bible baptism (Acts 2:47; Acts 8:13).

**3) They Believe They Cannot Live Perfectly After Baptism.** No one has asked for perfection post-baptism. Jesus requires we live “faithful unto death” (Rev. 2:10). Christians can and do sin. At such a time, we “confess our sins” and they will be forgiven (I Jn. 1:9).

**4) They Have Fears.** Some have a fear of water, others fear being watched by large crowds. Whatever fear it may be, it can be and must be overcome. Concerned brethren will see to it you are well-cared for, and that the most important thing is your soul’s salvation (Matt. 16:26; Lk. 9:25)!

## FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

### MEETING AT HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

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## MEETING TIMES (EST)

### SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am  
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm