

# Red Letter Edition

May 2013

What did Jesus Say?

Third Month 6013

**Third  
Month 6013**  
**LOOK for the  
crescent!**

Beginning  
Sundown  
05/10/2013  
2.6% illumination  
13° above horizon

[CLICK HERE TO GET YOUR CALENDAR](#)

In This Edition:

*Counting the Days to*     **1**  
*Pentecost*

*NEW Radio Outreach*     **2**

*Letters*     **3**

*TRI Bookshelf*     **5**



**Beyond the  
Printed  
Word...**

**ANNOUNCING!**

**Two  
New Radio  
Broadcasts  
ON SHORTWAVE!**

TRI is a media ministry broadcasting both TV and radio 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. **Red Letter** Edition has been **LIVE!** 6 days a week for quite some time...NOW **RLE** is reaching thousands of **ThINKers** without computers, without ready internet service through shortwave radio! It has long been our burden to be so "unavailable" except on the internet. Shortwave is **THE ANSWER!**

[Click Here for Worldwide Shortwave  
Schedule](#)

**The TRI Listen / Call-in line:**  
(During live programming only)  
**(323) 443-7210**

## A Timely Subject - Mikvah



### JUST SO

**A**s I sit watching a Japanese Tea ceremony, I observe the ancient actions repeated *just so*. Each meticulous element, motion, every element of this observance is being executed with painstaking accuracy. Throughout each stage of preparation, presentation, and consumption – cup and spoons placed here, there, and then back again – everything *just so*. The cup is turned *just so*. The water is poured *just so*. The spoon is tipped *just so*. The napkin is folded *just so*. Every minute detail is dictated by millennia of prior performances. Each action is carried out to the finest detail, and all is done *just so* – as it was by thousands of ancestors before them.

### WHY?

As I ponder the imponderable, Pam comes through the door in her housecoat, a strand of hair striping her left cheek; she grabs the tea kettle, sticks its spout under the faucet, and clanks it on the burner. When it whistles, she pours the boiling water over a teabag. (*Yeah! Tea-makin' at its finest! In just three minutes!*)

There is something to appreciate about the Japanese tea ceremony, the clink, clink, clink of my wife's spoon, and the nearly-dripping steamy teabag with string hanging precariously over the side of her saucer as she enjoys her last sip. One is sheer beauty. The other is... well...



(Continued on page 2)

## THINKING PINK (BY & FOR LADIES)

*A Softer Shade of Red*

**Next Issue: SOMETHING BORROWED-  
HEALTH**

th  
red **INK**  
ministries

# Red Letter Edition

(Continued from page 1)

As it is with any ceremony, we must assess the value of the action as art and the action's practicality and essentiality. Even with baptism there are to be found beautiful and artistic elements in every thought and action. Ancient remembrances are to be made with ancestors who have participated in t'vilah (immersion) both in natural waters and in the waters of mikvah (baptismal pools). Participation in this rite can be witnessed as early as the creation of the world when it was still void and engulfed in its own baptismal waters; and it has been practiced as recently as the newly converted man who was dunked in the chilly baptistery of the local Protestant church building.

Baptism has united tens of thousands of believers while simultaneously splitting thousands of churches. It has been misused, misread and misunderstood for centuries. When held in proper light, baptism can be a wonderful thing. When used as a tool of manipulation, it is intimidating and threatening. When misunderstood, baptism is wasteful.

Baptism is a Scriptural instrument of sanctification and sanctification and a part of our preparation for Pentecost.

The *permanence* of baptism is an erroneous outcome of the Protestant reformation. The idea that baptism is a "once in a lifetime" event is, in actuality, a natural succession of the false doctrinal link between church membership and salvation. Baptism is erroneously used as a "rite of passage" and church membership requirement and thus was destined to morph into the impotent monster it has become. Its value realized only as ritual, baptism begins to transmute its own characteristics, such as: christening, sprinkling, and the total spiritualization of the event. Essentially, ritualistic baptism results in Believers not doing it at all because they just think of it as a spiritual concept rendering tragic results. Today, it is likely to be basis for argument

***Pentecost 6013  
is sun-day; 5/19  
(beginning at  
sunset on 5/18).***

***ARE YOU READY  
TO MEET THE***



rather than an instrument of sanctification.

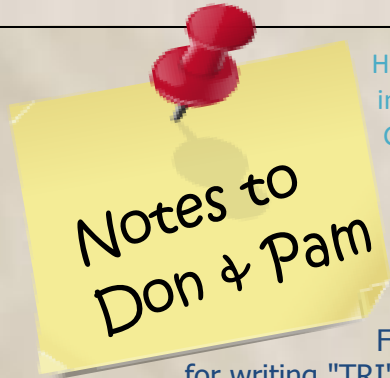
So, where do those who want to minimize ritual, maximize truth, and examine all that is done in the light of Scripture, fit baptism into daily living? First, let's look at some of the errors in traditional belief regarding baptism:

- Baptism was NOT introduced by John the Baptist, the Baptist church proper, or Protestants in general. Baptism is an ancient practice. It is found in the Scriptures as ceremonial washing. T'vilah, or immersion into clean, clear water, has been prescribed by YHVH as a means of rendering one who is *ceremonially* (I prefer the word *spiritually*) unclean to be ceremonially clean. For instance, if a person were to come near a dead body he *might* or *might not* be infected with the disease that killed; but, most definitely, they would be *ceremonially unclean*. The prescription for this unclean condition would be a visit to the mikvah, or baptism. Women in menses, touching certain animals, contact with the stuff in the house of a dead man, affliction with running sores, etc. would merit a mikvah cleansing.
- Baptism is NOT an once-in-a-lifetime occurrence. The mikvah is necessary many times throughout a life for ceremonial (Spiritual) cleansing.
- Baptism (water baptism as it is understood today) is not a rite-of-passage into "church membership". Baptism does not join anyone to anything. According to Acts 2:47, "... the **Lord** added to the church daily such as should be saved." It becomes apparent that response to the call of Jehovah is

(Continued on page 4)



# Red Letter Edition



Hello Pam and Don, The message today [Red Letter Edition] was spectacular!! Good Going! ...We appreciate you folks. Keep up the good works. Glad everyone is better. Have a Great week! In Him, (CO)

I have watched the DVD's you have sent to me. I have watched them over and over. You just make it so easy to understand. You just don't know how much I have learned from you and how much I want to hear it all. Thank you both so very much. God Bless You!! (TX)

FROM FACEBOOK: "These are the best books I've read in my 80 years...Thank you for writing "TRI" & telling us about this Bible...You have brought my life mate and I closer to the Lord than all the years we spent in church & other Christian books...Thanks from the bottom of my heart!!!" (TX)

Don and Pam, thank you for sending us your GLC DVD on Manna. The book opened many doors but your DVD is really hitting deep in my heart. If I understood correctly you have a 6-hour training in Guidance from the Red Letter Academy. I would appreciate receiving it from you. I feel like I am growing as I am trying to listen to the Spirit better. I am starting to think different, do different and I am being convicted deep in my heart in ways I have not experienced before. It is still a challenge to be quiet and listen for longer periods of time however; I am growing in this area. My conviction for rightness is growing as I listen. One thing that is growing stronger and stronger is my knowing for sure, I want the real deal; I truly want the true Jesus to fill my life and guide me in the path He desires for me... It is exciting. We so want to be a part of the activities of the brethren but have not been able to manage it yet. Thank you both for listening and obeying and helping others to do the same. Friend (CO)

Don, Pam, Actually, I have been counting to Pentecost and I must confess, it has been a wonderful experience. My wife is also getting it finally. Thank you for the effort you always make to see that people love to search for truth. I would also LOVE to go through the book you recommended: "Pagan Christianity". ..YHWH keep you safe. I appreciate the edition "On Pentecost"!!! There is one thing I have gained from your ministry: LOVE OF TRUTH. Thank You Sir. (LAGOS, NIGERIA)

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you so much for all the information and newsletters, etc., you sent. (NEW – WS)

I heard you Sunday and I actually appreciate your wisdom! I hope to catch you and KKVV (radio) Las Vegas next Sunday. Thank you for NOT tickling my ears! (NEW – NV)

Dear Don, thanks for all the help you have been to me over the last 2 to 3 years. My life has been radically shaken right side up, thanks again (SHEFFIELD – UK)

Hello Don and Pam ... even though we haven't seen you in awhile we think of you often - like daily - and we thank you for the hard work you are doing trying to erase the Christ-insanity out there. With best regards (NM)

*I'm so happy [Don] brought up "The New Oxford Annotated Bible," a while back on the TV...I ordered one and when I started reading it, I ordered [husband and daughter], one and later I got one for my oldest son and we told one of our Florida friends about it and he ordered one...etc. etc. I have never enjoyed reading any Bible like I do this one...in fact, I have put away my other Bibles and use this one daily. (TX)*

We had special Feast of Unleavened bread... When God calls, we do hope we will be ready. (GA)

I had the great opportunity to give a copy of the red letter questions to my friend and employee... He is a great guy making his way back to the Way. Please pray for him in this journey. I really appreciate you all and the time and truth you've put into your materials and life. We'll pray about joining you for the Feast this year. We had wanted to get people together here ...make it a possible choice for people here. We shall see...Thanks again, keep on! (WA)

# Red Letter Edition

what connects us to His Church. Baptism is subsequent to and remote from any other “church” or membership, and it becomes a common occurrence in the lives of dedicated men and women for other reasons as well.

- Sprinkling, requirements of running (live) water, nakedness, going underwater three times, the presence of witnesses, presiding rabbis, preachers, pastors, priests, etc., etc. All these are fabrications of sinful men wishing to control the Spiritual lives of “church” members, parishioners, or other constituents.
  - Immersion in water is NOT a part of redemption. It IS, however, a large part of dedication and sanctification.
  - The value of baptism is NOT in actuality, about cleansing. It has nothing to do with clean water washing away dirt, germs, or the “filth of the flesh”. *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the **filth of the flesh**, but the answer of a good conscience toward God) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:”* (1 Peter 3:21)
  - Although there is allegory in Baptism, it is NOT a symbol, emblem or pictogram of something else (like conventional, traditional understanding). It is an instrument. It is NOT a sacrament of any kind. It is a way to answer YHVH in thanksgiving for His redemption. Baptism is an action that sanctifies.
  - The T'vilah or immersion (baptism) is not to be confused with the greater and singular baptism as an immersion of our faith in the life of YHVH Himself.
- Ephesians 4:4-6, *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*
- The word “baptism” in the New Testament more often refers to the spiritual definition (that is: calamity, hardships, and even martyrdom due to our faith) than it does immersion in water.

*“For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping*

As the day approaches we are to be reminded of that first Pentecost at Sinai. The instruction given to meet at that mount with Jehovah was to be sanctified.

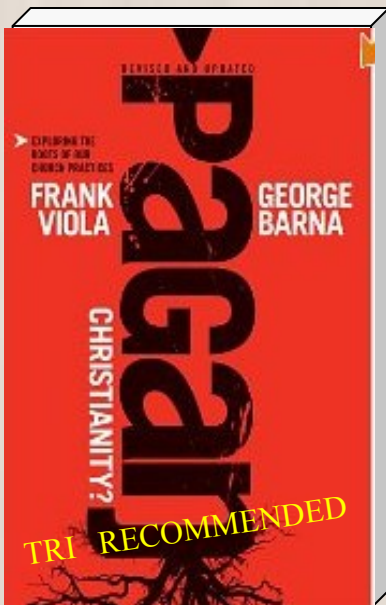
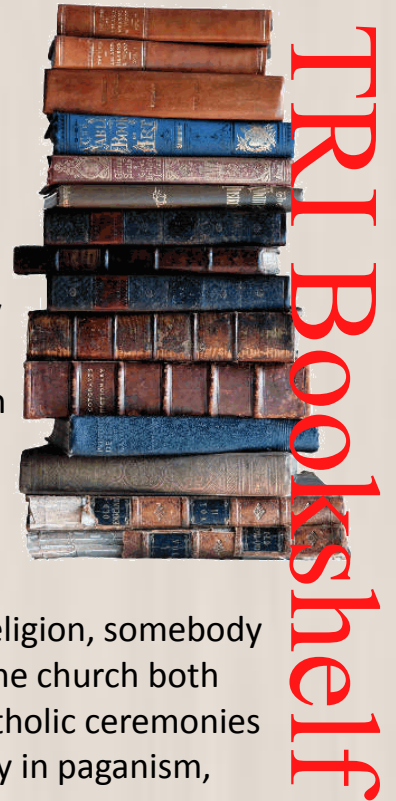
(Leviticus 11:44) *“For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy: neither shall ye defile yourselves with any manner of creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”*



## Pagan Christianity

By Frank Viola and George Barna

As a truth-seeker for many years, I'd like to think that I am fairly well-versed in the pagan origins of Christianity. However, when I read Pagan Christianity, I was floored by the roots of many modern-day church practices. Growing up in a Roman Catholic environment, I have always wondered why the church building looks the way it does and why the mass itself is filled with such pageantry and strange, mystical traditions. The further into this book I read, the angrier I became. At any point along this downward spiral of religion, somebody should have asked the question, "Are the changes I am making to the church both *scriptural* and *pleasing* in the eyes of Jehovah?" As it turns out, Catholic ceremonies simply morphed into Protestant rituals with similar sources not only in paganism,



but also in the government and philosophy of that day. You will be amazed to discover where such popular church customs originated, like: the order of worship, worship leaders, sermons as the focal point of the church service, Sunday morning dress, tithing and clergy salaries, baptism and the "Lord's Supper", and the more recent additions to the church, such as Sunday school, bible colleges, and youth leaders. The authors of this book call us to return to an "organic" form of gathering for the believers in Messiah.

By paying close attention to the way that Christ was presented to the early churches in Scripture, the authors of Pagan Christianity believe these enduring principles will lead us to worship Jehovah as we are meant to - in Spirit and in Truth. If this natural concept of "church" has piqued your interest, I highly recommend this book.

~ A Fellow **ThINKer**

"The church of Jesus Christ cannot be started. It cannot be welded together. There is no blueprint or model that we can tease out of the New Testament by extracting verses and trying to imitate them mechanically. The church of Jesus Christ is a biological, living entity! It is organic; therefore, it must be born."  
pg. 238

# Red Letter Edition



(Continued from page 4)

***If you do not visit the mikvah, just how do you intend to sanctify yourself?***

The word "sanctify" is often defined as "to be made holy". Although a common definition, it is a poor one due to a lack of understanding that "being holy" means "to be set aside" to be sanctified. In order to set something aside and sanctify it, some demarcation is necessary. (You would remove the money for a special project from your cookie jar and set it aside, for example.)

In order to be sanctified, you must draw a boundary across the time line of your life. Baptism is the perfect picture of a new beginning (a "clean start"). Sometimes this line of demarcation will come after a time of repentance. Often it will be a time of re-dedication or determination to make changes in your life.

Baptism can be a private and cherished love offering – the thankful giving of yourself to the Father after recovering from a prolonged sickness or upon ending a long period of your indifference to spiritual things.

All of these are good and perfect reasons to visit the mikvah. Baptism indicates your desire to begin again and make lasting changes. It is a way of saying, *"From here I start over - CLEAN."*

At Pentecost, we look forward to meeting with YHVH just like the children of Israel in the Sinai desert. It is a time to make a trip to the mikvah waters in order to prepare for the meeting! You can mikvah in the privacy of your own home in your own bathtub. Please, don't neglect it! By necessity, sanctification is a major part of communion with the Father. Remember His admonition. This is how His Son did it, and this is how we can accomplish it!

(Matthew 3:14–17) *But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, *This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*"*

The ERASER 

th  
red **INK**  
ministries