



# The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

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## Just Fishin'

By  
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I was sitting on a fallen log at the bank of the AuSable River in Northern Michigan. What I was doing, a real fisherman would call "Resting the pool."

A pool is a relatively quiet place in the river where the water is a bit deeper and flows a little more slowly than the main current. It is a good place for fish to rest while waiting for food to come drifting into their neighborhood. The reason I was resting the pool was because my earlier, rather inept attempt to entice the trout to bite on my bait was so noisy that it had, in fact, frightened them into seeking shelter in the brush piles near the opposite bank. I was hoping that their memories would be short

and they would, soon, forget about me and my clumsy presentation of an artificial fly. Hopefully they would end their seclusion, venture out looking for something to eat and find my bait somewhat appealing.

One thing I like about trout fishing is that it affords me plenty of time for reflecting and enjoying the wildlife along the verge of a trout stream. I seem to spend a lot of time resting the pools. On this occasion I was watching a mink looking for a tasty meal in the shallows of the opposite bank. After the mink had gone on its way I began to just watch the water flowing by and I remembered a statement made by some scientists/experts claiming "That there is the same amount of water in the world today as there ever was, not a drop less and not a drop more."

I usually view the claims of "experts" with a high degree of skepticism but

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## SERVICES:

### Sunday

Bible Study: 10:00 am

Worship: 10:50 am  
6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 pm

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in this case I think they were absolutely correct. Their theory about water argues well for Creation. Through the process of evaporation and condensation the waters of earth are recycled and replenished. The waters

evaporate into the air and eventually condense and return to the earth in the form of precipitation in its various forms.

In view of that, to me at least, startling revelation, I began to wonder if the water that I was watching could have been the same water that lifted the Ark or flowed in the Jordan River. Maybe it was the very water into which John baptized Jesus. Could it also have been the same water that flowed from the rock which Moses struck or perhaps was in the Red Sea when God parted the water to allow the Israelites to escape from Egypt? We could let our imagination lead us on and on but you get the idea.

I guess I never thought about it in this way before, but as I came to realize that we could not exist without water, that without water there would be no early or latter rain to nourish the plant life. Without water we would, as my mother used to say, “Dry-up and blow away.” In fact our bodies are composed of about 98% water and as they expel water in the form of waste and

perspiration they need to be continually replaced. If we are not rehydrated we will eventually die. This caused me to remember the words of Jesus in the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John when he told the woman at Jacob’s well that he could offer her Living Water. The water from the well would satisfy her thirst for a while but eventually she would thirst again. The well water will sustain us temporarily, but only temporarily. He was offering her Living Water, the Word of God.

Have you pondered that, in as much, as we spend the first nine months of life suspended in amniotic fluid and, in the fullness of time, we are expelled from that fluid and our mother’s womb to become a newly born baby, that this process prefigures baptism? How incredibly appropriate is the figure of baptism; just as when we emerged from our mother’s womb to become a newly born child we arise from the waters of baptism to become a new born babe in Christ. This concept of the New Birth and the baptism figure confounded folks in the

first century and continues to do so even today.

The Apostle Peter phrased it this way; “Being born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” 1 Peter 1:23 and quoting the Prophet Isaiah, “*For all flesh is as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth and the flower thereof fadeth away but the Word of the Lord endureth forever.*” 1 Peter 1:24-25 and Isaiah 40:6-8.

Well.... I guess I’ve been on this log long enough and it’s time to get back to thrashing the water. Come to think of it, Peter was a fisherman and sometimes he didn’t catch anything either. Now, that’s a comforting thought. Now, if the trout will leave me alone, I’ll soon get back to my fallen log, rest the pool, and do some serious pondering. Maybe I’ll muse a bit on the roll that fishes play in the Gospel narrative.