



A Thought About Baptism (Mark 16:16)

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Just before His ascension, Jesus instructed His disciples, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he

that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). Within this statement of Jesus exists much controversy and confusion in our religious world today. Let us examine this passage.

In Mark 16:16, Jesus said that anyone who believes or has faith (compare John 8:24 & Hebrews 11:6) and (coordinating conjunction that links two equally parts together) is baptized (the word literally means to be immersed) will be saved (or obtain salvation from our sins, compare Acts 22:16). Many in the religious world teach that baptism is not necessary to salvation because, in the second clause of this verse, Jesus did not say, “...he that believeth not and is baptized not, shall be damned.”

Please consider the following illustrations: If someone were to say, “He that eats and digests his food will live; he that eats not shall die. In this statement, we can understand what is necessary in order to live: eating and digesting. However, in the second clause, we also can understand that if one does not eat, then he has nothing to digest. It is therefore unnecessary for one to say that if one does not eat and digest his food he will not live. The same is true concerning the statement that Jesus made. If a person does not have faith that Jesus is the Christ, that person will not seek to obey His commandments. If a person does not have faith, than it is unnecessary to say, “he that believeth not and is baptized not, shall be condemned.” In John 3:18, Jesus said, “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

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