



Today's Sermons
 Morning: The Chain of Salvation
 Evening: TBA

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FOR THE RECORD

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Offering	\$1785



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Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm

Wednesday
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program
 Sunday:.....7:30am
 "Back to the Bible"
 AM 580 WSKS
 93.5 FM

**We Extend A
 Warm &
 Cordial
 Welcome
 To All Our
 Visitors!**

IS ONE CHURCH AS GOOD AS ANOTHER?
 Marvin L. Weir

The words "attend the church of your choice" often greet readers searching the newspapers for churches that advertise. If one church is as good as another, then it is also true that one may confidently attend the church of his choice. Let us now search the scriptures and see if this is so.

Is one founder as good as another? Jesus promised He would build His church (Matthew 16:18). Christ, not a man nor a group of men, is the founder of His church. The apostle Paul affirms this truth: "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:11). Think of all the different foundations that have been laid by religious groups. Will one accuse the Christ of laying different foundations? Our Lord is neither the author of division (1 Corinthians 1:10-13) nor confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). Christ has made it clear that "every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matthew 15:13). If one founder is as good as another, then one can confidently attend the church of his choice!

Is the shedding of any person's blood as good as the shedding of the blood of Christ? The church that Jesus promised to build was purchased by the shedding of His

Continued Inside

A Sound Church

A sound church is not merely a church that sounds good, but rather one that is firmly anchored in truth!

"That they may be sound"

Titus 1:13

Sound in DOCTRINE	• Titus 2:1
Sound in FAITH	• Titus 1:13
Sound in UNITY	• John 17
Sound in ORGANIZATION	• Ephesians 4:11
Sound in WORK	• Titus 3:1
Sound in WORSHIP	• John 4:24
Sound in TEACHING	• 2 Timothy 4:14
Sound in GIVING	• 2 Corinthians 9:7-8
Sound in ZEAL	• 2 Corinthians 8:2
Sound in LEADERSHIP	• Acts 2:38

"But speak those things which become sound doctrine." Titus 2:1

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blood (Acts 20:28). The Lord's church was not purchased by the blood of "bulls and goats" (Hebrews 10:4), nor by the blood of any human being! Who will presumptuously proclaim that his shed blood purchased the church of our Lord? Who will arrogantly boast that his blood can cleanse one of his sins? If it is true that anyone's blood can be shed for our sins, the shedding of Christ's blood was unnecessary.

Is Christ the only head of the church, or is one head as good as another? Do those who attend man-made denominations really believe that Christ is the head of a church that man or woman founded? Christ is only the head of His church "which is his body" (Ephesians 1:22-23). How many "heads" are there? Only one--Christ! How many bodies should exist if there is only one head? Only one! The apostle Paul affirms such: "There is one body" (Ephesians 4:4).

Do folks who claim to believe God's word really believe it? The prophet Jeremiah taught, "O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23). The wise man stated, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man; But the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Do folks really believe that Christ can be the head of a church that man has founded? Do people have good reason for believing that the one head (Christ) has spawned hundreds of different religious groups? No, the Bible does not so teach; thus, one church is not as good as another.

Is one kind of worship as good as another? The reason for different churches is to accommodate different kinds of worship! Can you tell me why a "Baptist" is not a "Methodist," or why a "Presbyterian" is not a "Catholic?" It is precisely because each has a different kind of worship that attracts those who desire to "worship" in such a manner. Jesus said, "God is Spirit: and they that worship him must worship in spirit and truth" (John 4:24). Is truth that which comes from man, or that which comes from God? The Bible says, "Sanctify them in the truth: thy word is truth" (John 17:17). If people do not engage in true worship, then the worship they enter into is "vain worship" (Matthew 15:9). If one kind of worship was as good as another, then one church might be as good as another. The Bible, however, does not so teach.

Instead of the church of your choice or my choice, we must attend the church of God's choice! God gave His Son to die for and establish the church - not a church, some church, or any church! Let the Bible be your guide and you will not be a member of some man-made denomination. No, one church is not as good as another. Such is the devil's doctrine, not God's.

IS BAPTISM ESSENTIAL TO SALVATION?

By Paul Kirkpatrick

There are many in the religious world that would say that baptism is not essential to salvation, because they claim that baptism is a work. They might phrase their assertion in the following form:

1. We are not saved by works
2. Baptism is a work
3. Therefore, baptism has nothing to do with salvation!

Sounds pretty good, doesn't it? The problem with this assertion is that one of the premises is false.

Jesus would take issue with the first premise. When asked by the multitudes of John 6 the question, "What must we do that we might work the works of God," Jesus replied, "...This is the work of God that you believe on him whom he hath sent." (John 6:28-29) Since Jesus clearly identifies belief or faith as a work, let us see how this clarification works in the former assertion.

1. We are not saved by works
2. Belief is a work
3. Therefore, belief has nothing to do with salvation!

I am sure that you and the rest of the religious world can see that there is something wrong with the former argument. We know this by examining the latter argument. Who would conclude that faith or belief has nothing to do with salvation? Yet the exact argument form is used in each illustration. The only conclusion that can be reached to harmonize the teaching of Jesus in John 6 is that belief is a work that is done to submit to the righteousness of God. (See Romans 10:3) In the same way that belief is a work of obedience, so also, repentance is commanded (Acts 17:30-31), confession is necessary for salvation (Romans 10:9-10), and baptism saves us (1 Peter 3:21). If we want to do the will of the Father (Matthew 7:21), then we will do all the will of the Father.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Sept 6 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Sept 20 – Preach & Eat
- Sept 20-25 – Tent Meeting w/ Jim Dearman @ Greenfields
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell
- Wireless Internet Password: 94615548