



**Today's Sermons**  
 Morning: Common Sense Religion  
 Evening: Song Service

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**FOR THE RECORD**

Sunday Bible Study	26
Sunday AM Worship	35
Sunday PM Worship	24
Wed. Bible Study	25
Offering	\$1755



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**“The Power to Become...”**  
 Tim Canup

**Times of Services:**  
Sunday  
 Bible Study:... 10:00am  
 AM Worship...11:00am  
 PM Worship:...6:00pm  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday:.....1:30pm

In the opening verses of the Gospel of John, he introduced the Christ as the “Word” who became flesh, then he wrote, “He {Jesus} was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not” (John 1:10-11). In verse 12, John makes a contrast, “But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.” There are many who rejected Jesus the Christ as Savior in that they do not accept His teaching found in the New Testament. However, for those who are willing to receive Him, they have great spiritual blessings (cf. Ephesians 1:3f).

Wednesday  
 Bible Study:.....7:00pm  
Radio Program  
 Sunday:.....7:30am  
 “Back to the Bible”  
 AM 580 WSKS  
 93.5 FM

There is an important concept found in John 1:12 that must be understood. According to this verse, those who receive Jesus are those who believe in Him; believe that He is the Christ (John 8:24). The apostle John wrote that to those who believe (or have faith) would receive the power (or right) to become a child of God, or a Christian, thus indicating that they are not yet one. Question: How can one become something they already are?

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

*Continued Inside*

## Buried with Him in Baptism

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”  
Matthew 28:19

“And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch: and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”  
Acts 8:38-39

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”  
Acts 19:5

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”  
Mark 16:16

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”  
Romans 6:4

“Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”  
John 3:5

“And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.”  
Acts 10:48

“For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”  
Galatians 3:27


“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”  
Acts 2:38

“And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”  
Acts 22:16

**How?**  
**Immersion in the name of Jesus Christ**

**Who?**  
**Every New Testament believer was baptized**

“(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)”  
Acts 8:16



Many teach that one becomes a child of God (a Christian) at the very moment of faith in Christ. However, according to this verse, our faith alone does not save us; it gives us the power or right to become a Christian. Faith is important, for the writer of the book of Hebrews said, “But without faith it is impossible to please him...” (11:6). James said, “Even so faith, if it hath not works {of obedience}, is dead, being alone...Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only” (James 2:17, 24). Faith is what moves us to obey all the commandments God has given in the New Testament, which saves us.

Although it is very common in our world today to hear men teach salvation by faith only, from John 1:12, we can see that is in direct contradiction to what the Bible teaches. Does the popularity of a doctrine mean that it will be acceptable with God anyway? Certainly not! Jesus Christ “...became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Hebrews 5:9). We have been given the commandments that we are to obey, and we cannot change them (Revelation 22:18-19). Jesus Christ will not change them for He is “the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever” (Hebrews 13:8).

As James said, salvation is “not by faith only” (James 2:24). By one’s faith alone in Jesus Christ, they do not become a child of God, but rather they have the power to become one. It is by our faith that we are to obey the commands Jesus has given, such as to repent of our sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as the Christ before others (Matthew 10:32-33), and to be baptized (in order to be saved – Mark 16:16).

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### **A Thought About Baptism from Mark 16:16**

Tim Canup

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 it together.

In Mark 16:16, Jesus said that anyone who believes or has faith (compare John 8:24 & Hebrews 11:6) and (a coordinating conjunction that links two equally parts together) is baptized (the word literally means to be immersed) shall be saved (or

obtain salvation from sin, 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 who lays a foundation and builds a house thereupon, shall have a place to live; but he who does not lay a foundation will not have a place to live.” According to the statement, what is involved in having a place to live? Laying a foundation and building a house upon it. If you do not lay a foundation, there will be nothing upon which to build. The same is true concerning the statement that Jesus made. Faith is our foundation (cf. Hebrews 11:1) and if a person does not have faith that Jesus is the Christ, that person will have nothing upon which to build; that is, they will not seek to obey Jesus’ commandments. 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.”

Next, consider the statement: “He that eats and digests his food will live; he that does not eat 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. Therefore, it is unnecessary to say that if one does not eat and digests not his food he will not live. It is also unnecessary (and redundant) for Jesus to say, “But he that believeth not and is not baptized shall be damned.” Without faith, no one will seek to obey God, including His command to be baptized.

Jesus clearly taught that more than faith was necessary to obtain salvation. Jesus said, “He that believeth AND is baptized, shall be saved...” He did not say, “He that believeth and is saved, shall be baptized”; yet that is exactly what many are teaching. Such is in direct contradiction to our Lord! Which one will you choose?

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Jan 27 – Song Service
- Feb 3 – Men’s Business Meeting & Ladies’ Bible Class
- Feb 10 – Preach-N-Eat & 1:30 Worship
- Feb 24 – Song Service
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell