

Today's Sermons

Morning: I Know My Redeemer Liveth!
 Evening: Song Service

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FOR THE RECORD

Sunday Bible Study	31
Sunday AM Worship	46
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Offering	\$1874



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A Thought about Baptism (Matthew 28)
 Tim Canup

As we conclude this series of articles on the controversial subject of baptism, consider with us Jesus' words in Matthew's account of the Great Commission. All we desire is for you to honestly consider the Word of God and accept it for what it says; not in part, but the whole. We cannot take one or two verses on any subject and have a full understanding of what God would have us know on it.

Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, "...All power {this is the word for authority} is given unto me in heaven and in earth." The commands that follow come from the One who has all authority (cf. Ephesians 1:21-23). Jesus then charged His disciples, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen" (verses 19-20). The thrust of Jesus' command is to go, teach, baptize, and then further teach them. Consider with me a small detail that has great bearing on the role of baptism in our salvation.

Continued Inside

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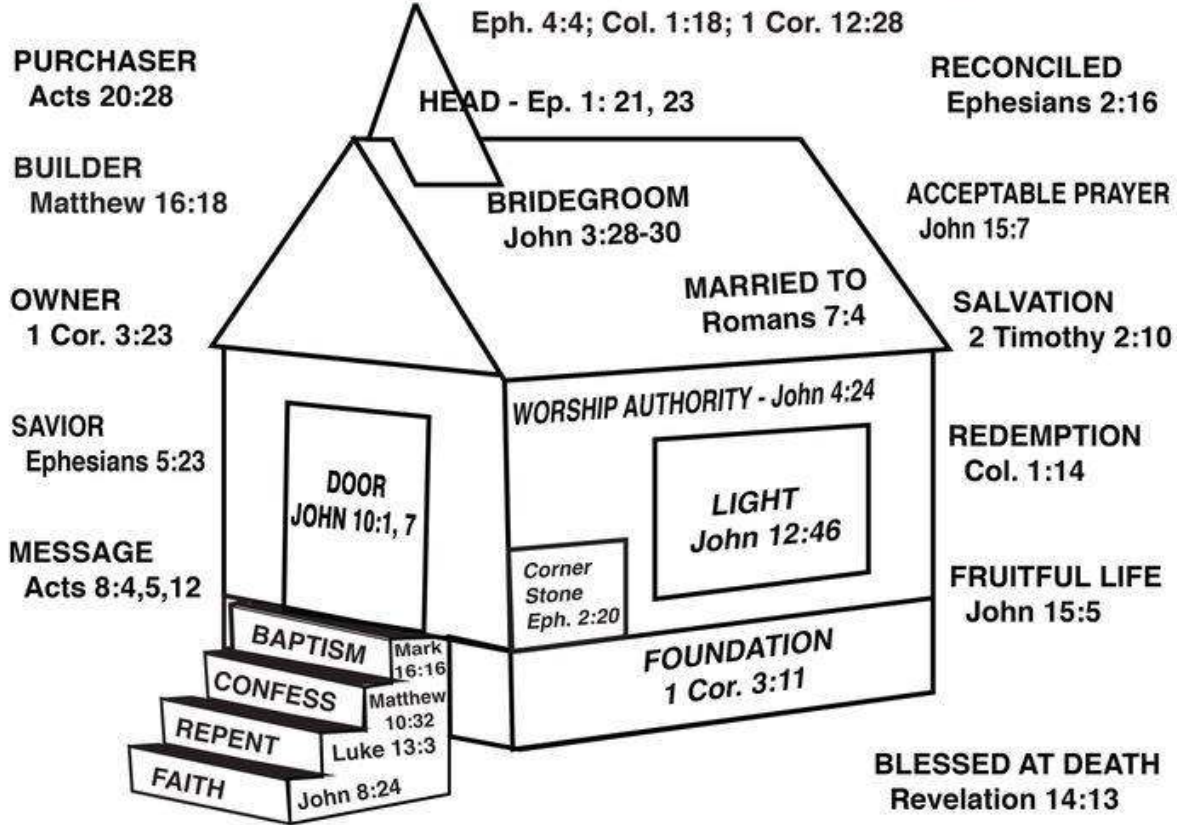
Times of Services:
Sunday
 Bible Study:... 10:00am
 AM Worship:...11:00am
 PM Worship:...6:00pm
 2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

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!**

WHY THE CHURCH OF CHRIST?



As we have noted, there is not one single passage anywhere in the Bible that says one has faith into Christ. However, there are at least two passages that state that we are baptized into Him (Galatians 3:27 and Romans 6:3-4). That is how one gets into Christ, where salvation is (II Timothy 2:10). In Matthew 28:19, when Jesus charged, “baptizing them in the name of...” is literally in the original language, “baptizing them INTO the name of...” Archaeology has revealed this phrase was commonly used in the first century when a possession was sold, such as wheat or a slave. Documents have been found where one thing was sold “into the name of” another. When a person is baptized, not only are they baptized into the death of Christ (where they contact the blood that cleanses them of their past sins – Romans 6:3-4), but they are baptized into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Being baptized into Christ, one becomes the possession of God. Paul said in I Corinthians 6:20 “For ye are bought with a price...” In Galatians 3, after telling us that one puts on Christ in baptism (verse 27), Paul then said, “And if ye *be* Christ's {notice the possessive}, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise” (verse 29). According to the Bible, baptism is the line of demarcation that transforms a sinner into a saint; it is when one becomes the possession of God; it is when one is saved.

Are you willing to be honest with both yourself and God’s Word to accept God’s commandment to be baptized for the purpose He gave it? Jesus commanded us to have faith in Him (John 8:24) and by that faith to repent of our sins (Luke 13:3), confess Him as the Christ (Matthew 10:32-33) and to be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16).

A Thought about Baptism (Acts 22:16)

Tim Canup

Most who deny baptism as a part of God’s plan to save suggest that the Jailor in Acts 16 is proof positive one does not have to be baptized in order to be saved; after all, in verse 31, Paul and Silas told him to “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...” However, let us honestly examine this example and see if, indeed, it is of one who was saved without baptism.

When Paul and Silas came to Philippi, they soon found themselves in prison. At midnight, while singing and praising God, an earthquake shook the prison and opened the doors. The guard drew his sword and was about to take his own life when Paul stopped him (verses 25-29). This man then asked the most important question ever: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” Now, it is important to note that the man who asked this question was a heathen in a heathen land, and had probably never even heard of Jesus Christ. He was at the beginning point of his spiritual journey; therefore, it is no surprise that Paul told him to

believe, but to suggest salvation came at that point will be disproven as you continue to read.

Paul made it clear that the Gospel is “the power of God unto salvation” (Romans 1:16). Immediately following their instruction to believe, “they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house” (verse 32). In speaking the “word of the Lord” they preached the Gospel. It is the Word of the Lord that produces faith (Romans 10:17). So if he was saved in verse 31, then he was saved without the Gospel, God’s power to save. Notice, after preaching the word of God to him, “he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway” (verse 33).

Now there is an important detail that must be noted in this example of conversion concerning what was required of him in order to be saved. It has been suggested that baptism is to confirm salvation and that baptism comes later, that is, after salvation. Let us put this to the test with the Jailor and let me ask you a very important question. This Jailor clearly took these two prisoners home with him upon hearing the Gospel and was baptized “the same hour of the night” (verse 33), that is, midnight. Now, if this Jailor was caught with these prisoners out of that prison, then it would have meant his own life (that is why he tried to kill himself when he had thought they had escaped). Now, if baptism is no more than an outward sign of an inward faith, that is, to confirm salvation, then why did he risk his life by having these men out of that prison to do something that could have waited until morning (or even later)? However, if baptism is part of God’s plan to save, that is, the point where the cleansing blood of Jesus is applied and sins are washed away, then it explains his urgency to obey the Gospel.

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you— unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures” (I Corinthians 15:1-4).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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