



The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

Hillcrest church of Christ

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
(920) 499-5677

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com

August 19th, 2007

“What’s After Baptism?”

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The Word of God tells us that there is "one baptism" (Eph. 4:5), and this baptism is for all lost men (Mk. 16:16). The design of baptism into Christ is for remission of sins, to obtain salvation (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Baptism changes ones state and relationship with God. One is "out of Christ" until he is baptized "into Christ" (Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:26-27). Salvation is to be found only in Christ (2 Tim. 2:10), along with all spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3). Thus, one cannot have salvation or any other spiritual blessings "out of Christ", before being baptized "into Christ"!

Therefore, after baptism — what then? Baptism does not guarantee eternal life! Even after one is baptized into Christ, he can so sin as to be lost; and Paul told some: "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace" (Gal. 5:4). They had fallen from grace! He had declared earlier that these had been called into the grace of Christ by the Gospel

(Gal. 1:16). Here Paul plainly declared what so many in the religious world state cannot be done: They had fallen from grace! Baptism did not guarantee their eternal salvation (Gal. 3:26-27)!

Baptism does not guarantee eternal life. What then, after baptism. Let us make a list. After baptism you **MUST**:

(1) Put the kingdom (the church) first (Matt. 6:33). Put God before pleasure, loved ones, company, work, etc. Like Paul, count all things loss for Christ (Phil. 3:7-8).

(2) All of life is devoted to Christ (Gal. 2:20). We are to be living sacrifices for Christ (Rom. 12:1-2). "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21).

(3) You must worship God every Lord's day (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25).

(4) You must live with care. Satan exists to make war with the saints of God (Rev. 13:7). Peter thus warned: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as

a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour" (1 Pet. 5:8).

(5) Cease to practice sinful or doubtful things. Live as a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). The one who is baptized into Christ is raised up to walk in newness of life (Rom. 6:4). "Be not deceived; evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33). "Abstain from all appearance of evil" (1 Thess. 5:21).

(6) Set your affection on things above. Don't put your trust in things of the world, for all will be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10). "If ye then be risen with Christ (an undeniable reference to baptism), seek those things which are above (an undeniable reference to the new life which follows — not precedes, baptism), where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God" (Col. 3:1-3).

(7) Keep in touch with God. We must permit God to speak to us daily through the study of His Word (Acts 17:11; 2 Tim. 2:15). Never quit growing spiritually.

(8) Be doers of the word (Jas.1:22). We show faith by works (Jas. 2:14-26).

(9) We must be more concerned about obedience than sacrifice. "To obey is better than sacrifice" (1 Sam. 15:22).

(10) We must add to our faith (2 Pet. 1:5-8). "For he that lacketh these things is blind ..." but, "If ye do these things, ye shall never stumble" (2 Pet. 1:9-10).

Brethren, "Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ..." (Phil. 1:27). We must live the gospel to be ready

for eternity.

"Fall of The Roman Empire"

The great historian, Gibbons, who wrote "The Rise and Fall of the Roman Empire," gave five reasons for the fall of the great dynasty.

First: Rapid increase of divorce, with the undermining of the sanctity of the home, which is the basis of society.

Second: Higher and higher taxes, the spending of money for bread and celebrations.

Third: The mad craze for pleasure; sports becoming every year more exciting and more brutal.

Fourth: The building of gigantic armaments, when the real enemy was within; the decadence of the people.

Fifth: The decay of religion, faith fading into mere form, losing touch with life, and becoming impotent to guide it.

A review of these principal factors in the decline of the Roman Empire can easily be related to our own time, and may portend our own decline from the status of a prominent world power.

America's foundations are in serious decay this very hour. Over nine million adult alcoholics in America. Fifty percent of all marriages end in divorce. Suicide is increasing at a dramatic rate. Pornography is a multimillion dollar industry. Homosexuals have risen to a new level. Modesty demanded by the Lord is mocked by society that thrills to indecency. Over 4,000 babies are aborted every day that means over 1.5 million human beings are killed each year in America by abortion. What can be done? "Let us search and try our ways, and turn to the Lord" (Lam. 3:40). "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34).