



# The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

## Hillcrest church of Christ

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## The Great Day That Is Coming

Jimmy Pettigrew

There are various kinds of days. There are important personal days: birthdays, marriage, anniversaries. There are important days set forth in the Bible. The Israelites had significant days: Passover and Sabbath. The "first day of the week" is a significant day for the Christian (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). The "Day of the Lord" is the great day that's coming! Men must prepare now for the day of the Lord. Death is not the end of life because there is a great day coming (John 5:28-29).

The Lord's return is a sure promise (2 Peter 3:9; John 14:1-3) The "day of the Lord" will come as a "thief," unexpectedly, suddenly (1 Thessalonians 5:1-2; 2 Peter 3:10). There are no "ifs, ands, or buts" about the Lord's second coming. When Jesus comes "the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt -with fervent heat" (2 Peter 3:10). God by the power of His word brought all material things into existence (Genesis 1:1). When He wills His creation to cease, it shall do so! The physical heavens, at Christ's second coming, along with "...the elements..." "and "...the earth..." "will, by fire be consumed. The material universe shall be destroyed.

In view of the sure promise of Christ relative to His coming and the end of the world "what manner of persons ought ye to be?" (2 Peter 3:11):

- (1) People of faith (1 Peter 1:5-9).
- (2) Obedient people (1 Peter 1:22-23).
- (3) Holy people (1 Peter 1:15-16).
- (4) Diligent people (2 Peter 1:10).

The wise man wrote, "Where there is no vision, the people perish," Proverbs 29:18. Unless you know where you want to go, you are not likely to get there! We must "watch" (Matthew 24:42), and "be ready" (Matthew 24:44).

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### BIBLE BAPTISM

Jimmy Pettigrew

One of the most debated subjects in the religious world is that of baptism. An unbiased study of the word of God will convince one that baptism is a very vital part in God's plan of man's redemption. Don't flippantly reject a study of the matter, for baptism is in God's book for a purpose. Let us enter into this study with an open mind, investigating what the Scriptures say that baptism can do, and what it cannot do, to affect our salvation.

Baptism cannot change the heart. This is done by faith (Acts 15:9). The heart is changed when we believe in God's word, and accept it in simple trusting faith (1 Peter 1:22-23). Baptism cannot change the life. This is done by repentance (Matthew 3:8). The fruits would attest to a change of life which repentance wrought. Baptism does not guarantee eternal life. Even after one is baptized into Christ, he can so sin as to be lost (Galatians 5:4; 1 Corinthians 9:27). Baptism does not prevent all wrongs. One who has been baptized is still vulnerable, and can do wrong. Ananias and Sapphira are examples of this. Baptism does not remove temptation (James 1:13-14).

Notice now what baptism can do: Baptism stands between the sinner and salvation (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21). Baptism stands between the sinner and remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Baptism stands between the sinner and the kingdom (John 3:5). Baptism stands between the sinner and forgiveness (Colossians 2:11-12). Baptism stands between the sinner and Christ's blood (Romans 6:3). Baptism stands between the sinner and being a child of God, and putting on Christ (Galatians 3:26-27). Baptism stands between the sinner and the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).

Baptism is a very vital part in God's plan of man's salvation. One is not saved until he has been baptized. One must be baptized in order to be saved.

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### **I WILL DO MORE**

I will do more than belong —

I will participate.

I will do more than care —

I will help.

I will do more than believe —

I will practice.

I will do more than be fair —

I will be kind.

I will do more than forgive —

I will work.

I will do more than earn —

I will enrich.

I will do more than teach —

I will inspire.

I will do more than give —

I will serve.

I will do more than live —

I will grow.

I will do more than be friendly —

I will be a friend.

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### **"WHAT'S IN YOUR BUCKET?"**

If you were walking from a well carrying a bucket of water and someone jostled you, there could be spilled from the bucket only that which it contained.

As you walk along the way of life, people are constantly bumping into you. If your life is full of ill nature, bad temper, and ugly disposition, those things will be spilled from it. If it is so full of proper Christian spirit, you will spill a smile or a pleasant remark. You can spill from your bucket only that which it contains.

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## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear and Learn** - Rom. 10:17; John 6:45; 17:3

**Believe** - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

**Repent** - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

**Confess the Lord** - Matt. 10:32-33; Rom. 10:9-10

**Be Baptized** - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Pet. 3:21

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17