



The Voice Of Truth

A weekly publication of the

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February 3rd, 2008

What Then?

Jimmy Pettigrew

The Word of God tells us that there is one baptism (Eph. 4:5), and this baptism is for all lost men (Mark 16:16). The design of baptism into Christ is for the remission of sins, to obtain salvation (Acts 2:38; 22:16). Baptism changes one's 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 have 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 have 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 lost 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 me to live is Christ (Phil. 1:21).

3. You must worship God every Lord's Day (Acts 27; 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 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 (James 1:22). Show faith by works (James 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.

"WHY CHRISTIANS ARE NOT PERSECUTED"

Jimmy Pettigrew

No one likes to suffer, but the Christian knows that various kinds of trials are going to come. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution," 2 Timothy 3:12. How can you be happy being a Christian knowing you are going to suffer persecution? Because that's what the Lord said: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you," Matthew 5:10-12.

One of the reasons is found in Romans 8:18, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for Christ (Acts 5:41). Some people are happier if they are left alone because of error, than being persecuted for righteousness. We should be happy because we are persecuted because of righteousness; this means we are getting closer to Christ (1 Timothy 4:9-10). If we stand for the truth, we will be persecuted. Was Paul? How about Jesus? He was the perfect preacher, but they hung Him on the tree.

Why we are not persecuted today? Because we don't challenge false teachers. We don't challenge people to study the Bible. We don't condemn anyone on what the Bible says. We don't want to hurt any feelings. We'd rather be left alone and live a quiet and peaceful Christian life without getting involved. Christians don't get persecuted because we are friends to the world (James 4:4); no difference between the world and the church! May God help each one of us to stand for the truth! Let us never be ashamed to suffer for that worthy Name (1 Pet. 4:16). Because of God's abiding comfort, life, and strength in our lives, victory is ours, even in the midst of suffering.

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