



The Voice of Truth

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“Unto What Were You Baptized”

By Jimmy Pettigrew

After the tumult in Corinth, Paul departed with Aquila and Priscilla for Ephesus. He left them, staying only for a short time hastening on to Jerusalem. During Paul's absence, Apollos, an eloquent man who was mighty in scriptures, but knew only the baptism of John, came to Ephesus.

When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they recognized his insufficiency in the gospel and took him aside and taught Apollos more perfectly. But Apollos, who knew only the baptism of John, left a condition which was to tackle Paul on his return to Ephesus.

Acts 19:1-7, “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper country came to Ephesus, and found certain disciples: and he said unto them, Did ye receive the Holy Spirit when ye believed? And they (said) unto him, Nay, we did not so much as hear whether the Holy Spirit was (given). And he said, Into what then were ye baptized? And they said, Into John's baptism. And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him that should come after him, that is, on Jesus. And when they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And they were in all about twelve men.”

Paul told them John's baptism did not do, being obsolete, and then the apostle corrected the situation by baptizing them into Christ. Do you see that it is very important that you know unto what then were you baptized? Those twelve men were baptized by one who did not know about the baptism set forth in Christ's commission. They were baptized with the wrong baptism, and for the wrong purpose!

John's baptism was for the remission of sins (**Mark 1:4**), but those receiving that baptism were to believe on Christ Who should come. The baptism into Christ demands faith in Him Who has died, was buried, and rose again from the dead! They had to believe in the risen Lord before they could be baptized into Christ for remission of sins! Thus, it was necessary that those men turn from a previous baptism to be properly baptized! They had to receive the right baptism, and for the right purpose!

Friends, there are multitudes in the religious world who have also received the wrong baptism, and for the wrong purpose! There are those who have been baptized of their confession: “I believe that God for Christ's sake has pardoned my sins.” If sins have already been pardoned, why be baptized? It is interesting to note-that The Standard Manual for Baptist Churches, by Edward T. Hiscox, contains twenty-six pages about baptism. Therein is quoted Greek scholars, Bible scholars, ancient authorities, church founders, early church fathers, historians, a great number of commentators, and noted theologians. All of these are quoted, or referred to, for proof that baptism is immersion. The Baptists have gone to

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great lengths to prove that they baptize by the proper mode. But, what is so strange is they go to so much effort to show that baptism is not essential to salvation. If it is not essential to the saving of the soul, then why be so insistent that it be immersion? In fact, if it is not essential to the saving of the soul, why practice it at all? But wait! You see you cannot get into the Baptist Church without being baptized. So, baptism is the door into the Baptist Church, but not the door into Heaven, according to their man-made doctrine. Why? Because Baptist doctrine teaches that one is saved by faith alone! If this teaching is true, one can go to Heaven without being baptized, but one cannot be a member of the Baptist Church without being baptized into it. This makes their "church" a step higher than the kingdom of God! Friends, these have received the wrong the wrong baptism, and for the wrong purpose! Therefore, the only reasonable thing for them to do is to reject that baptism, as those twelve at Ephesus, and be baptized properly! This is a serious matter.

The scriptures are very plain as to the purpose of baptism, and what action is involved therein! Paul wrote to the saints in Galatia, "For ye are all sons of God, through faith, in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ" (**Galatians 3:26-27**). It could not be made more simple and plain: it was by faith that they became children of God. The word faith has the article in the Greek (*tes pisteis*), so it is the faith. Ye are sons of God through the gospel with the sphere of Christ. Then Paul tells how one gets into Christ: by baptism. It is forcefully shown that they were out of Christ and were baptized into Him! Paul did not quiver in stating that one is out of Christ until baptized into Him. Please notice the change of tenses from **verse 26** to **verse 27**. **Verse 26** says, "ye are," present tense. So "ye are (present tense) children of God and that is because "you were baptized" (past tense). A person is a child of God by the gospel, only if he is in Christ. But, he is in Christ only if he has been previously baptized into Him. Therefore, the only way that it can be said that ye are a child of God is for it to be said of you that you were baptized. Ye are the sons of God because ye were baptized into Christ. God has arranged no other entrance into Christ. This means all who have not been baptized into Christ are yet out of Christ. Now do you understand why these twelve were baptized into Christ?

Again, unto what were you baptized? Were you baptized into a church not mentioned in the Bible? Were you baptized believing your sins had already been forgiven? We must be baptized into Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), that we may obtain every spiritual blessing (**Ephesians 1:3**), including salvation (**Mark 16:15-16; 2 Peter 3:21**). We are baptized into the body of Christ (**1 Corinthians 12:12-13**), for there we are reconciled to God (**2 Corinthians 5:18-20; Ephesians 2:15-16**). We are baptized into the death of Christ (**Romans 6:3-5**); for there we contact His saving blood which washes away sins (**Acts 22:16**).

Again, unto what were you baptized?

"Getting An Answer You Don't Want"

By Jarrod Jacobs

After last week's article concerning how we sometimes do not get the answer we want when studying the Bible for certain answers; I thought it would be good to write this "companion" piece. You see, even when we pray, at times, we do not get the answer we want! When this is the case, how do we respond? It is evident that there were folks in the Bible who prayed, but didn't always receive the answer they desired, or did not receive the answer exactly when they wanted it. How did they respond? Let us study three examples of answered prayer and see.

Isaac And Rebekah

After Isaac and Rebekah married, Isaac (at age 40, **Gen. 25:20**) and Rebekah tried to

have a child. Such a blessing (**Ps. 127:3-5**) was held from them for 20 years before she bore the twins Esau and Jacob (**Gen. 25:26**). During those years, Isaac was praying to God about this matter, asking God for children (**Gen. 25:21**). For 20 long years, Isaac did not receive a positive answer to his request, for Rebekah remained “barren” (**Gen. 25:21**). For 20 years, they had received an answer they did not want, and they were never told why they had to wait this long!

Thankfully, Isaac and Rebekah remained steadfast and faithful to the Lord. Their faith endured during those years, and they were blessed with not one child, but two. What about us? Are we showing this same kind of patience? Are we praying for things when it is evident that God is making us wait for an unknown reason? Or, have we lost patience with God, and have tried to do things “our way” as Abraham and Sarah did at one time (**Gen. 16**)? When we get an answer from God that we do not want, do we set out to fulfill our wishes anyway, or do we stop and consider that perhaps this is God’s will that we wait, even if we do not know “why” at the time?

The Apostle Paul

Another example of someone who prayed but got an answer that he did not want is the apostle Paul. On three occasions, the apostle Paul prayed that his “*thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan*” might depart from him (**II Cor. 12:7-10**). For him, the answer to his prayer was “no.” The Lord answered him, saying, “*My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness*” (**v. 9**). The apostle was not allowed to be relieved from this “thorn”, whatever it was. Nor was he told “why” the answer was no. How did he respond to such an answer? Did he rebel? Did he turn away from God, saying that if he didn’t get his way he would not serve God anymore? No, rather it was the opposite. In learning that there would be no relief from this because God’s strength or power is made perfect in weakness, he responded, “... *Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong*” (**v. 9-10**).

When we spend time examining our lives (**II Cor. 13:5**), would we also have this type of trust in God? God knows what is best for us, and if when we pray, He says, “No,” will we accept His answer? Will we accept His “No” even if we never understand His “Why”? Will His grace be sufficient for us when we get an answer we do not want? May His grace forever and always be sufficient for the Christian!

Job

After losing all his earthly possessions, dealing with an unsupportive wife, and “friends” who turned into accusers, Job’s continued cry was for an audience with God. He was sure that if he could just “plead his case” before God, then his plight and persecution would be straightened out (**Job 9:34-35, 13:3, 21-22, 16:21-22, 23:3-7, 31:35-40**). He did not deserve this treatment, he knew, but he had no clue as to where it came from. (We do! **Job 1-2**) Therefore, Job’s constant prayer was to plead his case before God and “set things right”! God agreed to Job’s terms (**Job 38-42**), and in so doing, though Job received a “yes” to his prayer, this was an answer Job did not want!

How can we know this? Put simply, when God answered him (**Job 38-39**), and wanted Job to respond (**Job 40:1-2**), all Job could say was: “*Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer thee? I will lay mine hand upon my mouth. Once have I spoken; but I will not answer: yea, twice; but I will proceed no further*” (**Job 40:4-5**). He got the answer of “yes” to his request of an audience with God, and then Job did not want it! He responded as well by saying: “*I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withheld from thee. Who is*

he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not. Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:2-6). There is a measure of truth in the statement, "Be careful what you ask for, you just might get it!"

Conclusion

These three cases are sufficient to show us several things. First, that God's answer to prayer can vary based upon His will at the time. Sometimes when we pray, God says, "Yes." Sometimes, He says, "No." Sometimes, He says, "Wait."

We hasten to add that sometimes God's answer to our prayers looks very different from what we envision! It was true in our three examples. It was also true for the Israelites who cried out to God for deliverance (**Ex. 2:23-24**). Their deliverance by God came in the form of a run-away Moses who returned to Egypt after 40 years, defeated the Egyptians by God's plagues, and then led the Israelites to the wilderness by the Red Sea! They did not like this answer (**Ex. 13:10-12**), and yet God's positive answer to their prayers resulted in them being freed from captivity, and led to the Promised Land!

What do you do when you get an answer in prayer that you do not want? Do you allow your selfishness to hinder the blessing, or do you accept God's answer and patiently trust that He knows best? Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com

At the End of the Day

Unknown author

1. Have I Accomplished Good? **Eph. 2:10; 2 Tim. 3:17; Rom. 2:7-8; 12:9**
2. Have I Avoided Evil? **1 Tim. 5:22; 6:5,11; 2 Tim. 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:1**
3. Have I Sinned Against Someone, or Has Someone Sinned Against Me? **Eph. 4:25-26; Rom. 12:18,21; Luke 17:1-4; Matt. 5:23-26**
4. Have I Repented? **Matt. 9:13; Luke 15:10; 2 Pet. 3:9**
5. Have I Left Something Undone? **2 Pet. 3:11; 1 Pet. 1:15,22**
6. Have I Made Good Resolutions? **Phil. 3:8-15a**
7. Have I Encouraged Somebody? **1 Thess. 5:14; Acts 4:36; 9:27-28; 11:19-24**
8. Have I Overcome Worldliness? **1 John 2:15-17; Rom. 12:1,2**
9. Have I Expressed Gratitude to God? **Eph. 5:20; Phil. 4:6; Col. 4:2**
10. Have I Thought About God and His Word? **Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:13,15; 2 Tim. 2:15; Phil. 4:8; Psa. 77:12; Psa. 119:48** Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - **Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; 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; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**

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

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