



The Voice of Truth



July 12, 2009

One Dies Before Baptism

By Jimmy Pettigrew

If someone has accepted the Lord Jesus in repentance, and dies before baptism, is he saved? The truth is that no one can "accept the Lord Jesus" without baptism, for it was the Lord who put baptism into the gospel and required it of all who would come to Him.

Christ doesn't give us options about how to accept Him. Please notice these passages: Redemption is found in Christ (**Romans 3:24**); there is no condemnation to them which are in Christ (**Romans 8:1**); the love of God is found in Christ (**Romans 8:39**). We are sanctified in Christ (**1 Corinthians 1:2**); in Christ shall all be made alive (**1 Corinthians 15:22**); we are new creatures in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**; **Galatians 6:15**); we are reconciled back to God by being in Christ (**Isaiah 59:1-2**; **2 Corinthians 5:19**; **Ephesians 2:13**); we are all the children of God by being in Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**); All blessings are found in Christ (**Ephesians 1:3**); We are made to sit together in heavenly places in Christ (**Ephesians 2:6**); Grace is found in Christ (**2 Timothy 2:10**).

The truth is that until one is baptized into Christ (**Romans 6:3**), he is not in Christ. Until one believes and is baptized, he is not saved (**Mark 16:16**). Until one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (**John 3:5**). Baptism washes away sins (**Acts 22:16**). And until one is baptized into Christ, into his death (**Romans 6:3**), his sins have not been washed away.

These passages show the Lord's purpose for baptism. Can you please answer these questions? Is one in Christ before baptism (**Romans 6:3**)? Are sins washed away before baptism (**Acts 22:16**)? Is one saved before baptism (**Mark 16:16**)? Is one in the kingdom before baptism (**John 3:5**)? If a man dies on his way to his own wedding, is his intended bride a widow?

The truth is that no one can accept the Lord Jesus without baptism, for it was the Lord who put baptism into the gospel and required it of ALL who would come to Him. One cannot accept the Lord by faith only, by repentance only, by confession only, nor by baptism only. All, not just one, of those are required by Christ!

What Then?

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 (**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 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, whatsoever 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.

We Are Blessed to Have Each Other

By Brian A. Yeager

The Psalmist said: "*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity*" (**Psalms 133:1**)! Too often, **having good brethren with whom to have fellowship in worship to our Lord and in His work is taken for granted**. That is, we simply fail to be as thankful as we ought to be for the fellowship we have one with another. As a Christian, you are part of something larger and more significant than yourself. Paul said: "*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another*" (**Romans 12:3-5**).

Brethren in the infancy of the church understood the need for one another. They spent time together on a daily basis (**Acts 2:46**). Brethren sure seemed to understand more then, than today that the body is not one member, but many (**I Corinthians 12:14**). Paul instructed the church of Christ in Corinth to understand that each member of the body was necessary for the body to function. Just as we in our physical bodies need our eyes, ears, and nose; the body of Christ needs each member (**I Corinthians 12:15-27**).

The unity of the body of Christ is shown not only in the fact that there is one body (**Ephesians 4:4**), but also in our agreement in doctrine and judgment (**I Corinthians 1:10**, **Philippians 2:2**, and **Philippians 3:16**). This even more effectively equips brethren to work together on a local basis. Thus, we can be built up by each other. Notice what Paul said: "*But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto*

the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

We Are Blessed With Each Other For Edification

When this world beats us up, we know we can go to the word of God for edification (**Acts 20:31**). However, we must also be able to come to our brethren. Sometimes it feels like everyone, except for the Almighty, is against us. It is then that we come to our brethren for comfort (**Philippians 2:25-30**). Brethren are supposed to be in each other's lives so that we may comfort and edify each other (**I Thessalonians 5:11**). In one of my favorite texts, Solomon said: *“Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken” (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)*. When we fall brethren, who better to catch us than those of like precious faith?

We Are Blessed With Each Other in Times When We Fail our Lord

In times when we fail our Lord, it is our brethren whom we should be able to depend upon that will be there to bring us back (**Galatians 6:1, James 5:19-20, and Jude 22-23**). Faithful brethren will love us enough to rebuke us when such needs to occur (**Proverbs 27:5** and **Revelation 3:19**). Faithful brethren will tell us when our hearts are not right with the Lord and they will instruct us to repent of the wickedness we are doing (**Acts 8:21-22**). Faithful brethren will bring their differences with us, to us; rather than spread those things to everyone else (**Matthew 18:15-17**). Moreover, when we repent of the wrong that we do; faithful brethren will be with us as they will forgive us of those trespasses (**Luke 17:3-4**). Then when our brethren get us on the right path they will be there to keep us on that path.

We Are Blessed With Each Other to Learn From One Another

In a congregation of God's people there may be teachers, preachers, elders, etc. However, there are also the lessons we learn from each other that are not formatted into a class at the building owned by the congregation. There are those lessons that the older men and women of the congregation will teach to the younger men and women of the congregation (**Titus 2:2-5**). There are those lessons that all of the members will learn from when any of the brothers or sisters in Christ lead godly lives in the midst of the saints (**Philippians 3:17**). We will learn humility from each other (**John 13:1-16**). We will learn hospitality from each other (**Romans 12:13**). We will learn what it means to give and receive by the examples our brethren properly set forth (**Acts 20:35**). We will learn about life from those of our brothers and sisters in Christ who live it in a godly manner (**I Timothy 4:12**). We will not only learn from each other, but we will share with one another.

We Are Blessed With Each Other in our Fellowship With One Another

While we certainly ought to share with each other in times of need (**Acts 4:32-35**), that is not the point of this section of the article. The point is this, how lonely would we be without each other in our work here? Imagine trying to worship alone (not that such is scriptural, for it is not – **Acts 20:7**). Imagine not having anyone to share our studies of the Gospel with. Imagine what it would be like here locally not to sit together in our studies three times per week and learn from each other's knowledge of the Scriptures. We need to be especially thankful for God's wisdom in having brethren to assemble together to provoke one another to love and good works (**Hebrews 10:22-25**).

Conclusion

Truly, we are a blessing to each other. It is a great thing that we can with one mind and one mouth glorify God (**Romans 15:6**). Paul often spoke of how he thanked God for the brethren (**Romans 16:3-4, I Corinthians 1:4,**

Ephesians 1:16, Philippians 1:3, Colossians 1:3, I Thessalonians 1:2, etc.). Maybe we ought to realize more of what Paul understood and we ought to also be praying not just for our brethren, but also because of our brethren! *Credit: www.wordsoftruth.net*

“A Lesson In Assumption” By Jarrod Jacobs

II Samuel 10 is an interesting chapter. It begins with King David extending sympathy to the Ammonites at the death of their king, and ends in war between Israel, Ammon and Syria. How could this happen? It came about for a simple reason: assumption! When David sent his representatives to the king to extend his sympathy (v. 2), those in Ammon said, *“Thinkest thou that David doth honor thy father, that he hath sent comforters unto thee? hath not David rather sent his servants unto thee, to search the city, and to spy it out, and to overthrow it?”* (v. 3).

What proof had they to make such a charge? The truth was David was wanting to extend sympathy, but those in Hanun’s court suggested otherwise. It seemed like they knew the truth, but in fact, they did not! They committed an act to shame the representatives of David (v. 4), and the result was that David went to war with these people (v. 7-19). What began as an act of good will resulted in war and death. Why was this? It is because the people assumed something that was not true! Their wrong conclusion resulted in wrong action, hurt feelings, embarrassment, and death! In fact, **II Samuel 10** and the events recorded therein would not have existed had it not been for the assumptions of those men.

The application to us is quite clear, I think. Let us begin by asking if we have been guilty of assuming things about others. If this is the case, then let us repent! It is evident in

II Samuel 10 that assuming things about others is a dangerous practice. While we may not start a literal war; many fights, hurt feelings, misunderstandings, and the like have resulted from someone assuming things about someone else.

Assumption stands in opposition to the will of God concerning love. The apostle Paul wrote that love *“thinketh no evil”* (**I Cor. 13:5**). Have we been around someone who said they “knew” why “brother x” acted or spoke in a certain way? They might have said, “Do you know why he did _____? I’ll tell you why he *really* did it....” This is making assumptions, tale-bearing, and in general just trying to hurt others. This ought never be (**Jas. 3:10**)! Yet, sadly it is a reality that men make assumptions concerning others when they never had the truth.

It has rightly been said that many people get more exercise by jumping to conclusions than by digging for facts. Let us determine that we will treat one another as we want to be treated (**Matt. 7:12**). Let us determine to do all things in love (**I Cor. 13:4-8; Col. 3:15**). When we love one another as we ought, we will not assume the worst in others, but will expect the best. In so doing, we can save ourselves and others a lot of heartache, bad feelings, and could squelch wars among brethren whose harm lasts for years!

Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.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

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Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

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