



# The Voice of Truth



August 16, 2009

## Does The Bible Teach Infant Baptism?

By Jimmy Pettigrew

I have read my Bible carefully, and I still do not find any case where babies were ever baptized. It does not contain one command to any preacher to baptize infants. Are we to base our faith (and practice) on what the Bible does **NOT** say, or what it says? I read that "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing the word of God" (**Romans 10:17**); it comes in no other way!

Many denominations support the doctrine of infant baptism; I quote from the Grace Lutheran church of Versailles, Missouri: "As sinners, infants need the great gifts of forgiveness and eternal life that baptism gives."

Sin is the transgression of God's law (**1 John 3:4**). So sin is a violation of law. It is something one does (**Ezekiel 18:20, 30**). So what does the infant do to be so sinful? What sin does an infant commit by being conceived? Where does the Bible say that babies are sinners? Do you believe that babies who die at birth are eternity lost? Friends, the Bible teaches that "we are the offspring of God" (**Acts 17:28**); that God is "the Father of spirits" (**Hebrews 12:9**); and He "formeth the spirit of man within him" (**Zechariah 12:1**). The baby's spirit comes from God, and if the baby is by nature a "sinner," then God would be to blame; **true or false?** I want to say that God gives us our spirits (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). God would **NOT** bring forth an unclean soul (**Matthew 7:18a; Ezekiel 28:15**). The wicked go astray (**Psalms 58:3**). Solomon said, "Behold, this only I found: that God made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions" (**Ecclesiastes 7:29**).

The purity of little children is revealed in **Matthew 18:3**. And again Jesus said, "Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall in no enter therein" (**Luke 18:15-17**). Infants do not inherit the sins of Adam or their parents

(**Ezekiel 18:20**); they have no knowledge of good and evil (**Deuteronomy 1:39**). Through growth children learn to choose between good and evil (**Isaiah 7:15-16**).

One can locate many examples for the baptism of accountable persons in the scriptures. Please give us book, chapter and verse for the authority of infant baptism? The denominational world teaches that infant baptism is a scriptural practice, so where does God command every infant to be baptized? What verse?

Let ask a couple of questions, those who believe in infant baptism teach that since the fall of Adam all infants born, are born in sin, they use **Romans 5:19** as proof, "For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners..." They use this passage as proof that man is indeed born a sinner. We need to keep on reading, "Even so through the obedience of one shall many be made righteous." Now, here are the questions, if by way of Adam's transgression all men inherit a sinful nature at conception (taught by those who believe in infant baptism), then why do not all inherit the righteousness of Christ who died to counter such effects? Is Adam's transgression of greater power than that of Christ's act of obedience in dying on the cross?

Let me ask another question, who may be baptized? The Bible gives us the answer! One must be taught (**Matthew 28:19**); must believe (**Mark 16:16**); must be a penitent person (**Acts 2:38**); and a person who has confessed Jesus as the Son of God (**Acts 8:37**). So, what do these passages teach us? It teaches us that to be a proper subject for water baptism, a sinner must be taught. Teaching must precede baptism. Faith must precede baptism. One must believe before he/she is ready to be baptized. Repentance must precede baptism. And confessing faith

precedes baptism. Notice the order, one must be taught, must believe, must repent and confessed Jesus to be the Son of God. Now I want you to notice, those who baptize infants have completely reversed God's divine will, and are teaching, "Baptize them now and let them to be taught, believe, repent and confess when they grow up." WRONG! There is no way in the world for man to baptize infants without reversing God's divine will and corrupting the word of God.

I had this discussion with this Lutheran "preacher" several years ago; he said, "The simple fact that infants are obviously part of "all nations," and are therefore included in Jesus' command to baptize all nations (**Matthew 28:19**). If this be true (and it's not), then it proves that atheists may be baptized, for they too are a part of the "nations."

He also used **Psalms 51:5** as proof that infants are born sinners. The text says, "In sin did my mother conceive me." It does not say "with sin did my mother conceive me." **Psalms 51:5** does not teach that David was born full of sin, read carefully (**Psalms 22:9-10; 139:13-16**).

Infant baptism is foreign to the word of God. History will show that it became a common practice not until the 5<sup>th</sup> century – way too late for the apostolic sanction. So, it must be rejected because it is not the will of God, but is a man made invention.

### The Reality Of Hell By Gene Taylor

In **Matthew 25:31-46** the Bible teaches that at the final judgment while the righteous will enter heaven to enjoy everlasting life, the wicked will go into eternal punishment. The thought of everlasting suffering is repulsive to many. No doubt this aversion lies at the bottom of much of the indifference to what the Bible teaches about hell.

Hell, despite the denials of many, is real. Sin demands it. Sin is a violation of the law of God (**1 John 3:4**). If there were no punishment for sin, then there could be no law for law without penalty is null and void. If there is no law, there would be no sin. That would make the death of Jesus useless because if

there is no sin there is no responsibility to save anyone from it.

The reality of life after death also demands the reality of hell. Jesus taught, in **Matthew 22:23-33**, that there was life after physical death. In the account of the rich man and Lazarus in **Luke 16:19-31**, two distinct destinies are presented comfort for the righteous but punishment for the wicked depending on whether or not one serves God while living on earth.

Hell was not originally prepared for man. It was prepared for Satan and his angels (**Matt. 25:41**). **Jude 6** states that fallen angels are placed in chains awaiting judgment. Yet, when men and women join the devil in his work and live in servitude to him, they must suffer the same fate that will befall him.

### Hell Is Not Contrary To The Nature of God

Many people find it difficult to accept the reality of hell because they cannot understand or believe that a loving, merciful and forgiving God could create such a place and then place people in it eternally. If no punishment were given for violation of His law, then God would not be just. Being a just God, He will reward the righteous and punish the wicked. Hell is to punish the wicked.

### What Hell Is Like

**Hell is eternal.** It is described that way in **Matthew 25:46**. In **Romans 16:26** God is said to be eternal. The Holy Spirit, in **Hebrews 9:14**, is also described as eternal. The same Greek word is used in all three passages. The word means "eternal, everlasting, without end, never to cease." Hell and the punishment meted out there will last as long as God forever.

**Hell is a place of darkness.** **Jude 13** speaks of "the blackness of darkness" to which false teachers will be confined forever. God is light (**1 John 1:5**) and the Father of lights (Jas. 1;17). Hell is described as darkness because it is the place farthest removed from God.

**Hell is a place of fire.** **Matthew 13:42** speaks of it as a furnace of fire. **Matthew 25:41** calls it an everlasting fire. **Mark 9:44-**

**45** says the fire is never quenched. **Revelation 21:8** refers to it as the lake of fire. There will be no relief from its fires because **Revelation 14:11** says the smoke from the fires of torment ascends forever and ever.

**There is no rest there. Revelation 14:11** says the wicked will have no rest from their torment day or night. Hell is a place where there is no hope. The punishment is everlasting (**Matt. 25:46**) with no chance of pardon or parole.

### Who Will Go There

As already noted, Satan and his angels will be there (**Matt. 25:41**). **Revelation 21:8** says the "cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars" will be there. **2 Thesalonians 1:7-9** says that those who do not know God and those who will not obey the gospel of Christ will be punished with everlasting destruction. In short, all sinners who choose to remain in their sin will be found in hell.

### Why People Will Go There

People will not be in hell because God wants them to be there. He desires that all be saved (**1 Tim. 2:1-4**). They will not be there because God cannot save them. God is all-powerful and the gospel, His power to save (**Rom. 1:16**), can save to the uttermost. God sent His Son into the world so that all might have salvation (**John 3:16**) and He has extended His invitation to all who would come to Him (**Matt. 11:28-30**). If a person ends up in hell, he is lost by his own free choice. He has no one to blame but himself. Many see no need to be interested in spiritual things and are indifferent to the pleas of the gospel. Others refuse to obey the gospel or submit to the will of God. Some refuse to believe. Others just love sin more than righteousness. Some, though once obedient, become unfaithful in service. Many put off obeying until it is too late.

### Conclusion

Hell is real. The suffering of it is waiting for the sinful. You can escape the torments found there by giving obedience to Christ

now. He will wash away the guilt of your sins and grant you hope of a life of eternal bliss in His presence. *Credit: www.padfield.com*

## "Dumb Rules And Warnings"

By Jarrod Jacobs

I am sure almost all of our dear readers have heard about certain "dumb warnings" that are placed within product manuals, tags, etc., for the protection of the manufacturer. Some might have read about the warning which came with a particular radio which said not to use the radio while taking a shower! Other warnings have been placed upon various appliances which seems ridiculous to the one reading them. It sounds ridiculous because many of the warnings are of such a nature that common sense tells one not to do it. My wife's hairdryer has a warning tag which states among other things: "Do not use while bathing". My son's shampoo has a warning on the back which says: "For external use only". (!!) In the weed-eater manual I have, there are 5-6 pages of warnings. Some warnings include the following: 1) "If the rotating cutting tool comes in contact with your body, it will cut you." 2) "If you get tired while operating ... take a break." 3) To reduce risk of burns do not touch muffler or other parts while they are hot."

This practice has bled over into our legislative process as well. There are rules on almost every aspect of life. What is amusing is to consider the fact that many such "dumb rules", are so specific. One rule in Okanogan, WA, says it is illegal to read the Sunday paper sitting on a rocking chair on the front porch while church services are in session. Another rule from Kittery, NH (no joke) says that local citizens may not stick out their tongues at a dog on the way to church. Why such rules and warnings? Why do manufacturers and legislators make such specific rules for us? Let us consider a few things that such "dumb" rules and warnings teach us, and then make some spiritual applications.

**1)** *For such rules/warnings to exist means someone either did it, or at least attempted it at some point! Do not be fooled! I*

am sure there were people at some point who have either attempted or succeeded in drinking shampoo, or blow drying their hair while bathing, etc. I am sure someone had to have stuck their tongue out at a dog on the way to church, and someone didn't like it. Thus, the very specific rule in New Hampshire. People are likely to do anything if given the opportunity.

2) *For such rules/warnings to exist means someone thought it best that no one else do it!* Obviously, some of the warnings we read were for the purpose of protecting people from dangerous circumstances. It is best not to touch a hot muffler. It is best not to be reading the paper while church services are going on, but to be worshipping God, is it not (**Heb 10:25; Jn. 4:24**)?

3) *For such rules/warnings to exist means someone is protecting his/her own interests.* In a society so willing to blame someone else for their mistakes, manufacturers try to protect their interests by telling people as many unauthorized uses of their product as they can in order prevent lawsuits from those who might take advantage of them.

Perhaps one does not see a connection between such rules/warnings and our souls. However, there are a few connections we ought to consider.

### God Has Warned Us

Just as manufacturers, and legislators can point to their rules and show that men

have been warned, so can God. On the day of Judgment, there will be no one who can say to God that they were not warned, or had no access to His will. We can spend time in God's word and read warnings concerning what will happen to those who "*know not God and obey not the gospel*" (**II Thess. 1:8**). We also are warned of the consequences if we do not believe in Christ (**Jn. 8:24; Mk. 16:16b**), and if we do not repent of our sins (**Lk. 13:3, 5**). God has warned, "*Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts*" (**Heb. 3:15**), and told us "*now is the day of salvation*" (**II Cor. 6:2**). We have been told that there is a day of Judgment in which "*every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God*" (**Rom. 14:11**). At that time, "*every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*" (**II Cor. 5:10**). We have no promise of tomorrow, but we have been warned.

### Man Cannot Rule Himself

Jeremiah declared, "*O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps*" (**Jer. 10:23**). If man cannot be trusted with a hair-dryer, or shampoo, or sticking his tongue out at a dog, what chance does he have of making it to Heaven on his own? Let us follow God's "rulebook" (**II Tim. 3:16-17; I Pet. 4:11**) in order to see Heaven together one day. *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**

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

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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

[www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com](http://www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com)