



The Voice of Truth



December 9, 2012

"Nothing But The Blood Of Jesus"

By Jimmy Pettigrew

"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God" (**Romans 3:23**), wrote the apostle Paul. Sin then, for all accountable persons, is a fact and a reality. "For the wages of sin is death" (**Romans 6:23**). Sin separates one from God (**Isaiah 59:1-2**). Is there any hope for man? How could man be brought back in favor with God? Nothing but the blood of Jesus could do it! "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (**Romans 5:10**). Knowing the results of sin as we do should bring us to the realization of the great need of the blood of Jesus Christ, since nothing but the blood of Jesus is the remedy for sin. "What can wash away my sins, nothing but the blood of Jesus." Let us look at some of the benefits of the blood of Christ.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus provides for man's redemption. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace" (**Ephesians 1:7**). To "redeem" means to buy back. Christians have been "bought with a price" (**1 Corinthians 6:20**), and that price is the blood of Jesus Christ. We have been redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ" (**1 Peter 1:19**). Jesus paid His own blood. The church was "purchased" with the blood of Christ (**Acts 20:28**).

Nothing but the blood of Jesus provides for man's sins being washed away. "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" (**Revelation 1:5**). Because Christ loves us, He washed us from our sins. The means by which Christ released us from our sins is by His blood.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus provides for man's justification. "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (**Romans 5:9**). To "justify" means to declare one free

of guilt; being guilty, man is in need of justification. Nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ will take away the guilt of sin.

Nothing but the blood of Jesus provides for man's reconciliation. "For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life" (**Romans 5:10**). The word "reconcile" means to be brought back to agreeable conditions. Man, who became God's enemy to because of transgression, was brought back on friendly terms with God, through the blood of Jesus Christ.

We know that the blood of Jesus is essential to man's salvation; then how can one contract the blood of Christ? Jesus shed His blood in His death (**John 19:34**). The only blood that can save and cleanse us is that which He shed in His death. And the only way we can reach that blood is said to be when we are baptized into His death! Paul, in his epistle to the church in Rome, pens the following words: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (**Romans 6:3-4**). Until one is baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**) and His death (**Romans 6:3-4**), he has not contacted the powerful, cleansing blood! Some people say we don't need to be baptized, that we are saved by grace only, and I would agree that we are saved by grace (**Ephesians 2:8-10**). Question: Where is grace found? "Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus" (**2 Timothy 2:1**). Grace is found in Christ! How do we get in Christ? One is baptized into Christ (**Gal. 3:26-27**). No sectarian preacher can point to a single passage that shows entrance into Christ by another means than baptism! "What can wash away my sins, Nothing but the blood of Jesus." We have access to that blood! ♦

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“Some Things Baptism Does ...”

By Jarrod Jacobs

Lately, we have had some baptisms here. We rejoice with those who have made this choice, and those who are Christians need to look and see how we can help strengthen these dear ones as they begin their journey for the Lord. In connection with this, I thought this would be a good time for us to go to the Bible and study some things baptism does in the lives of people. What does baptism do for man? What purpose does it serve?

Baptism Remits Sins

One point that is apparent in the New Testament is that baptism remits (forgives) men of sins. Upon accepting the Lord's plan of salvation, which includes baptism, one's sins are blotted out and his soul is clean! When Jesus told His apostles to go preach the gospel to all nations, He made this point clear. He said, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mk. 16:16). After hearing the Lord's command, the apostle Peter preached *“repentance and remission of sins”* in Jerusalem (Lk. 24:47) on the day of Pentecost. Peter told the Jews: *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”* (Acts 2:38). This same apostle later wrote a letter to Christians where he stated, *“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* (I Pet. 3:21). Yes, baptism saves us from our sins. To deny this point is to deny very plain Bible teaching.

Through Baptism, One Is Added To The Church

Simultaneous with the forgiveness of sins, we also find folks being added to the Lord's church when they are baptized. This fact is stated in Acts 2:47. It reads, *“praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”* Notice that those who were baptized were saved, and those who were saved were added to the Lord's church (Acts 2:47)!

This is a key point, because many today have completely separated salvation from the Lord's church in their teaching. They claim they can be saved one day and added to a church on another day. Some claim to have been “church members” for years, but only “saved” in recent months. This view of the church and salvation is foreign to the Scriptures!

On the contrary, what we see is that the church is composed of saved people, only saved people, and no unsaved people! It is the church (saved people) who are called the body of Christ (Rom. 12:5; I Cor. 12:12-14). It is this group of saved people (the church) who will one day be gathered and delivered up to God (I Cor. 15:24).

When we understand this simple truth, it ought to help us appreciate what it means to be a part of the Lord's church. May we also thank God for allowing us to be in this great fellowship. Truly, we would have none of this if it were not for God and the sacrifice of His Son (Jn. 3:16).

Baptism Gives Us The Name “Christian”

The name “Christian” is a special name. It is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy (Isa. 56:5, 62:2, 65:15). In Acts 11:26, we read, *“And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.”*

Note the end of this verse says *“in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.”* The phrase “were called” in English comes from a single Greek word, “chrematizo” and means they were divinely called of God. In other words, “the disciples” were called “Christians” by God first in Antioch! Who are “the disciples”? They are called “the church” earlier in verse 26. They are the followers of Christ. Now we ask, “How did they become disciples, or how did they become a part of the church?” The answer is that they became a part of the church when they submitted to the Lord's plan for salvation! In other words, when they were baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38, 47)! In so doing, these people (disciples) were called Christians by God, thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy.

Therefore, when folks today do the same thing that these folks did, we know that God also considers them Christians. The question we must ask is, “Would God consider YOU a Christian?” Have you been baptized for the remission of sins?

Baptism Makes You A Child Of God

One thing that the Bible teaches is that if one wishes to belong to God, he must be “born again.” Peter said we are *“born again ... through the living and abiding word of God”* (I Pet. 1:23). In other words, through the teaching and through our obedience to the word taught, we are

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born again, or we become God's children. Jesus stated that unless we are "*born again*" or are "*born of water and the spirit*" we cannot "*see the kingdom of God*" (**Jn. 3:3, 5**). Therefore, to be "*born again*" means to be "*born of water and the spirit*" and vice versa. Jesus is not describing a baby being born of his mother, but a man being born again! Jesus said such action results in him entering the kingdom of Heaven. Such obedience results in a soul becoming a child of God!

In this context, we read of the Romans, who, having been baptized into Christ (**Rom. 6:3-6, 16-18**) were called, "*children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ*" (**Rom. 8:16-17**). Yes, baptism

makes us children of God.

When we heed the word of God (**1 Pet. 1:23; Rom. 1:16**) and are "*born of water and the spirit*", (**Jn. 3:5**) we can be Christians. We can be children of God, looking forward to that blessed inheritance awaiting the faithful when this life ends (**1 Pet. 1:3-4**).

Conclusion

May we thank God for His simple and beautiful plan of salvation. May we rejoice at what this does for us when we lovingly accept God's gracious plan, and follow it by faith. Spiritual blessings can be ours, and Heaven can be our eternity if we will just do as he says to do!

Credit: *The Old Paths* - 9/2/12 ♦

The "One Faith" Of The Gospel By Jonathan L. Perz

"Of what faith are you?"

The very question contradicts its Biblical answer. The Bible plainly says there is only "*one faith*" and that we are to "all come in the unity of" it (**Ephesians 4:3-6, 13**—please read it for yourself).

Paul admonished the Philippians to be of "one mind striving together for *the faith* of the gospel..." (**Philippians 1:27**). Jude exhorted that we "contend earnestly for *the faith* which was once for all delivered to the saints" (**Jude 3**). Paul and Barnabas exhorted the disciples "to continue in *the faith*" (**Acts 14:22**). The Corinthians were told to "stand fast in *the faith*" (**1 Corinthians 16:13**). This is "the mutual faith" that Paul shared with the Romans (Romans 1:12) and the "like precious faith" that Peter spoke of (**2 Peter 1:1**).

The Colossians who had received Jesus Christ, were to "walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and established in *the faith*, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving." Regarding the faith, Paul also warned them to "Beware lest any spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (**Colossians 2:6-8**).

The Spirit promised, "that in the latter times some shall depart from *the faith*" (**1 Timothy 4:1**). We can read of others who had already "erred concerning *the faith*" (**1 Timothy 6:10, 21**). This is why Titus was told to rebuke some sharply "that they be sound in *the faith*" (**Titus 1:13**).

All of this serves as evidence that there is only "one faith and emphasizes the importance of "the faith of the gospel" (**Philippians 1:27**). What is the source of this *one faith*? No writer on earth can better express the answer to this question than "the author and finisher of our faith"—Jesus Christ (**Hebrews 12:2**).

The source of this "one faith" is not the pulpit of your church (unfortunately, the Bible does not always agree with the preacher—note the wisdom of **Acts 17:11-12**). The source of this "one faith" is not what makes you feel good (sin is often pleasurable and continuing in the faith sometimes means trials and tribulations—read **Hebrews 11:25** and **Acts 14:22**). This "one faith" is not found within the creed books of denominations (these teach for doctrines the commandments of men—read **Matthew 15:8-9**). Rather, it is written, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (**Romans 10:17**).

Does your faith come from the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Paul stated that preaching any other gospel would result in being accursed (read **Galatians 1:6-9**)? Therefore, he preached "the faith" (**Galatians 1:23**)—the only authority he kept and lived by (read **Galatians 2:20** and **2 Timothy 4:7**). Which "modern-day denomination" (i.e., faith) was Paul describing? With many different churches teaching many different faiths (i.e., doctrines—**2 John 9-11**) regarding salvation, the church, worship practices, the second coming, etc., it is essential to "examine yourselves and see whether you are in *the faith*" (**2 Corinthians 13:5**).

Clearly, there is no other faith that saves besides the

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God" (Ephesians 4:3-6). Why not also accept that there is one found within the pages of God's word. We all accept only "one faith," seek after it, and accept no substitutes that there is only "one Lord" and "one Spirit" and "one for it (read Matthew 6:33; 7:7-8)? •

The church of Christ

Has:

- One Builder – Jesus Christ (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 3:9-11)
- One Purchaser – Jesus Christ (Acts 20:28)
- One Head – Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:22-23)
- One Savior – Jesus Christ (Eph. 5:23)
- One destiny – eternal salvation (Eph. 5:23)

IS:

- The spiritual body of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:23)
- The kingdom of Christ (Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:28)
- The depository of those saved (Acts 2:47)
- One body, not many bodies (Eph. 4:4; 1:22-23)
- One way to be added to the church:
- One must believeth that Christ is the Son of God (Jno. 8:24)
- One must repent of sins (Lk. 13:3)
- One must confess that Christ is the Son of God (Rom. 10:9-10)
- One must be baptized into Christ (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; Gal. 3:26-27) •

THINK ABOUT IT!

When a farmer stops plowing his land, stops planting seed, and stops harvesting his crops, he has stopped doing those things that identify him as being a farmer. When a Christian stops attending worship services regularly, stops studying, stops giving as he has been prospered, and has stopped working for the Lord, he has stopped being a Christian because he has stopped doing those things that identify him as a Christian. "By their fruits ye shall know them," (Matthew 7:20). •

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