

## What Do I Owe My Congregation? Author unknown

**I owe it my loyalty.** I must help carry out every good work it undertakes. I should help other congregations in special efforts, but I should not neglect my home congregation. I owe it my dependability. I am depending on it for many things it does in my behalf. It is not fair and right for me to depend on it and not be such that it cannot depend on me.

**I owe it my financial support.** It takes money to operate the church and preach the gospel. I am responsible to the Lord to give as He has prospered me. My home congregation has first call on my financial ability, for if the members of the church do not support the work of the home congregation, it will not be supported. The expenses go on whether I am there or not, so I should make up my contribution when absent.

**I owe it my presence.** If everyone stayed home there would be no worship of God. I am responsible as anyone to attend all of my congregation's services. I must not be a parasite.

**I owe it the influence of a godly life.** The life I live either helps others to obey the gospel or makes it the harder for them. How I live affects the work of the church and the salvation of the lost. I should live in such a way that my life will be blessing to others. ♦

## GOD HAS A RIGHT Author unknown

- God has a right to a definite part of your time
  - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to a definite part of your money
  - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be glorified through your tongue
  - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to be honored through your influence
  - He has the power to take all of it.
- God has a right to your life
  - He has the power to take all of it. ♦

## 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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#### Our Address

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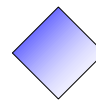


#### Schedule of Assembly

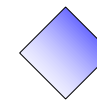
**Bible Study:** Sunday, 9:00am  
**Worship Service:** Sunday, 10:00am  
**Bible Study:** Wednesday, 7:00pm\*

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

**www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com**



# The Voice of Truth



April 29, 2012

## 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, 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. ♦

*Don't think you can ignore the Lord in this life and  
He will give you a crown in the Life to come.*

*A faith that will not take us to worship will not  
Take us to heaven! ♦*

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## “Getting Angry At The Wrong Things”

By Jarrod Jacobs

The population of man has typically shown themselves to think in exactly the opposite manner as God (**Isa. 5:20-23**). Truly, His ways are higher than man’s (**Isa. 55:8-9**). It is not in man that walks to direct his steps (**Jer. 10:23**). At the same time, it is possible for us to know God’s will and act upon it when we read and obey the word of God (**Phil. 4:8-9**)!

Seeing that man, on his own, tends to think in the opposite manner as God, it should be no surprise that man would get angry at the wrong things as well. Often, the things which anger God do not anger man, and vice versa. Please consider the following examples:

### David Got Angry At The Wrong Thing.

David got angry when Nathan spoke the parable of the man’s ewe lamb that was killed (**II Sam. 12:1-6**). After having been told about the selfishness of the rich man and his actions in killing the poor man’s lamb, David responded by saying, “*As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity*” (**v. 6**). David got angry when told about the rich man’s actions. He was ready for vengeance as well as restitution after hearing this parable. Yet, when told of the death of an actual *person*, not a lamb in a parable, his response to Joab was, “*Let not this thing displease thee, for the sword devoureth one as well as another: make thy battle more strong against the city, and overthrow it: and encourage thou him*” (**II Sam. 11:25**).

Why? How can this be? David looked upon the death of Uriah his friend, one of his “*mighty men*” (**II Sam. 23:22-39**) in his army as nothing, but is enraged at the death of a lamb?

### Jonah Got Angry At The Wrong Things.

Jonah had a similar problem as David. After finally obeying God and preaching in Nineveh, the people obeyed the word of God (**Jonah 3**). When they obeyed, Jonah became very angry (**Jonah 4:1**). He pleaded with God to take his life, but God did not do it, so he went to the east side of the city to watch the events in town (**Jonah 4:5**).

While there, God prepared a gourd to give him shade from the sun, and then prepared a worm to harm the gourd, so that it died (**Jonah 4:7**). After this, Jonah got

angry again, and begged God to let him die (**Jonah 4:8-9**).

Why? How can this be? How can Jonah be more “wrapped up” in a gourd than in a people once lost who have now repented and were spared by God?

### Judas Got Angry At The Wrong Thing.

When Mary took a box of ointment and anointed Christ before His crucifixion and burial, we see the disciples, and namely Judas, being upset and angry at this event (**Matt. 26:8-9; Mk. 14:4; Jn. 12:4-5**). His reasoning was this could have been sold and given to the poor. John says that the real reason was that he wanted the money since he “*had the bag*” and would steal out of it (**Jn. 12:6**).

Why? How can this be? How could Judas have been upset when a wonderful sacrifice occurred in preparation for the Lord’s burial (**Matt. 26:12-13; Mk. 14:8-9; Jn. 12:7**)?

### Scribes, Pharisees, The Nazarenes, And Others Were Angry At The Wrong Things.

When Christ was upon this earth, we find that when He spoke, some folks would become angry with Him. The scribes, Pharisees, and even folks in the city of Nazareth became angry when Jesus spoke words that they didn’t like (**Lk. 6:11, 4:16-28**). In these, and other cases, we see Jesus speaking the truth to folks. Yet, when the truth did not fit what they wanted to do, then the people became angry at Jesus.

Why? How can this be? When so many people would love to hear the words of Christ as they were spoken from His mouth, how could these people become angry when they heard those words?

### Men Today Get Angry At The Wrong Things.

In addition to the above examples, we could add more examples of folks getting angry at the wrong things, could we not? In like manner, we today can become angry for the wrong reasons if we are not careful. For example, when some acquire a disease like cancer, heart disease, etc., some men have a tendency to blame God. “Why did God allow this to happen?” “Why do bad things happen on this earth to good people?” are questions men often ask

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when faced with diseases and other hardships. Some may even lose their faith over events like this. In reality, those folks are angry at the wrong One. Disease and death came into this world as a consequence of sin (**Gen. 3:16-19**). Sin came into the world because men listened to Satan rather than God (**Gen. 3:6**). Thus, folks who are angry at God over disease and death are angry at the wrong One!

### Why Do People Get Angry At The Wrong Things?

While I am not able to list every reason why people get angry at the wrong things, I believe we can see a “theme” in the Bible examples we noted above. Please notice that in every case, the anger expressed was based upon a selfish motive.

In the case of David, his selfishness motivated him to hide the truth and mislead a nation as well as arrange for Uriah’s execution (**II Sam. 11**). When Nathan spoke a parable that seemed to not be centered around David, he got angry at the injustice. In other words, he refused to acknowledge his own sin, and thus when his plan for killing Uriah succeeded, he was not upset nor angry about that at all. See how this is backwards? He should have repented for his sin of adultery, his sin of murder, lying and trying to hide the truth about who the father of Bathsheba’s baby was, coveting his neighbor’s wife, and stealing a man’s wife (**Ex. 20:13-17**). Instead, he sought to hide those sins, and became angry over a lamb! See how his thinking was messed up?

The case of Jonah was very much the same. He did not want to preach to the Ninevites because he knew God would forgive them (**Jonah 4:2**). The gourd provided shade and relief for him (**Jonah 4:6**). Therefore, when it was

gone, he was angry. His selfishness found joy in something meant for him, but he could not see his way clear to being happy for a city of people who were spared and forgiven of their sin (**Jonah 4:10-11**).

Judas was this way as well. His anger stemmed from the fact that he wanted the money for himself! He did not see why the ointment ought to be used in the manner it was when he could have taken the money and used it for his own purposes! Again, selfishness clouds man’s judgment, and this is just another example. Should he not have been repenting of his actions and asking for forgiveness? Instead, he was mad at Mary.

Instead of being happy to be able to hear the truth preached from the mouth of Christ, the ruling class of Jews became angry with Christ! They did not want to change. They did not want to live as the Lord said to live. Therefore, instead of humbling themselves and following the Lord, in their selfish pride they castigated Christ! They were angry with the Lord and sought for an opportunity to kill Him until they finally succeeded!

### Conclusion

Friend, there is no question that there are times when we get angry. Let us make sure we are like the Lord and are angry for the right reasons. Let us also express our anger in the right way (**Eph. 4:26-27**)! When we are confronted with our sin, then let us not get angry about it, but humble ourselves and repent. Let us not allow pride and selfishness to blind us to the truth as others did. Yes, when angry, it is hard to control our emotions and actions, but it must be done if we are to be followers of Christ. No one said being a Christian would be easy, but it is the best! *Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com* ♦

## THE ONE BODY

The church is the body of Christ, “And he is the head of the body, the church (**Col. 1:18**). There is only one body, one church. “*And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all*” (**Eph. 1:22-23**). The New Testament teaches that there is only one body; this one body is the church. We are “fellow heirs of the same body” (**Eph. 3:6**). We are “reconciled to God in one body” (**Eph. 2:16**). Christ is founder of only one church. “*Upon this rock I will build my church*” (**Matt. 16:18**). Jesus did not say that we would build a church, His church or one of His churches. He said, “I will build my church.” The word “church” signifies singularity. Jesus did not build many different churches, but one! None should encourage any to seek the church of your choice, but the church of Christ’s choice, that is, the one that is Christ-built, blood-bought (**Acts 20:28**), the one in which He is the Saviour of (**Eph. 5:23**).

Since there is one, and only one church and since Christ saves only those in that one church; thus, if one living today is not a member of that church (**Rom. 16:16**), then he is not saved. ♦