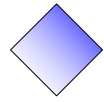


# The Voice of Truth



August 25, 2013

## Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part VI

By Jimmy Pettigrew

We have been looking at the views on church authority. This week let us take a look at the Lutheran faith.

Lutheranism accepts the Old and New Testament as the inspired Word of God, and as the only infallible rule and standard of faith and practice (Smallcald Articles p. 476). Yet, they accept and confess the three ecumenical creeds (Apostles, Nicene and Athanasian); and hold the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as the correct exhibition of the faith and doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran faith, founded upon the Word of God also: The Smallcald Articles, the Apology of the Auguburg Confession, the Large and Small Catechisms of Luther. Bible only?

Lutherans teach: Justification by faith alone is held to be the central doctrine of the Word of God according to which all other doctrines are determined and developed. (Government Report of Denominations, Vol. 2, p. 835).

The Bible teaches: "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). If the doctrine of "faith only" was true, it would save demons (James 2:19). "Faith only" is mentioned in the New Testament; but it teaches the very opposite (James 2:24-26). Many rulers believed on Christ, but were not saved (John 12:42-43).

Lutherans teach: The mode of baptism is non-essential, and you can be baptized by sprinkling or Affusion (pouring). (Note under Answer to Questions No. 335, L.C.S).

The Bible teaches: The word "baptize" has never been translated anything other than dipping, plunging, or immersion. Baptism is called a "BURIAL" (Romans 6:1-4; Col. 2:12). Just as Jesus was buried in a tomb, so is the one who dies to sin in repentance, buried in waters of baptism. Baptism is a going down into and coming up out of the water (Acts 8:36-39; Mark 1:9-10). The early practice of the church was immersion.

Lutherans teach infant baptism. They say the Scriptures clearly teach that man is indeed born a sinner (Psalms 51:5; Romans 5:19; Genesis 8:21). They say, "Historically speaking, the rejection of infant Baptism rests squarely on the assumption that baptism is something man must do for God, in response to God's command. But the Scriptures teach that man is 'dead in transgressions and sins' (Ephesians 2:1). How can a dead man do anything for God? He cannot".

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, hearing the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Jesus made a promise in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." In Acts 8:37, when a man asked, "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" He was told, "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest." Faith must precede baptism! One must believe before he is ready to be baptized. But infants are incapable of believing and trusting Christ. Infants are incapable of confessing Christ (Romans 10:10; Acts 8:37). Confessing faith must precede baptism! Infants cannot confess Christ. The purity of little children is revealed in Matthew 18:3; Luke 18:15-17. Infants do not inherit the sins of Adam of their parents (Ezekiel 18:20); they have no knowledge of good and evil (Deut. 1:39). Through growth children learn to choose between good and evil (Isaiah 7:15-16).

I would like to ask a few questions concerning the teaching of infant baptism, and hopefully people will listen to the teaching of God.

(1) 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

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conceived? Where does the Bible say that babies are sinners?

(2) They teach that since the fall of Adam all infants born, are born in sin. Do you believe that babies who die at birth are eternally lost?

(3) 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" (**Zech. 12:1**). The baby's spirit comes from God, and if the baby is by nature a "sinner," then God would be to blame.

(4) 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? They say that infant baptism is a Scriptural practice, where does God command every infant born to be baptized?

(5) The sacrifice of Christ counter's the effects of Adam's transgression (**Romans 5:12-21**). In fact, Christ is the "last Adam" (**1 Corinthians 15:45-47**). They quoted **Romans 5:19** as proof that man is indeed born a sinner. If by way of Adam's transgression all men inherit a sinful nature at conception, 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?

They use **Psalm 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." Some have brought this fact out by using parallel language. Notice: "I was brought forth in a potato patch, and in a field of spuds did my mother conceive me." Does that mean he was born full of potatoes? No, certainly not, and **Psalm 51:5** does not teach David was born full of sin (cf. **Psalm 22:9-10; 139:13-16**).

To be a proper subject for water baptism a sinner must be taught. **Teaching** must precede baptism (**Acts 2:14-41; 8:35-39**). Infants are incapable of being taught the gospel. **Faith** must precede baptism (**Mark 16:16**). One must believe before he is ready to be baptized. But infants are incapable of believing and trusting Christ. **Repentance** must precede baptism (**Acts 2:38**). Infants have nothing for which they need to repent and are incapable of repenting. **Confessing** faith precedes baptism (**Acts 8:37; Romans 10:10**). Infants cannot confess Christ.

The Bible is right! Which one will you take your stand with?

(Part 7 of this article will be printed in next week's bulletin) \*

## "A Martyr For Christ"

By Jarrod Jacobs

On my wall I have a picture of several preachers of the gospel from the late 1800's and early 1900's. Some of these men I have heard of, and many I haven't. However, one man stands out in that picture. This is a man named W. M. King. He stands out because above his picture there is a caption which reads, "A Martyr For Christ". I don't know anything else about that man, but that inscription alone speaks volumes to me!

This simple, yet deeply moving epitaph for brother King reminds me of the statement made about Antipas in **Revelation 2:13**: "I know your works, and I know where you dwell, where Satan's throne is. Yet you hold fast my name, and you did not deny my faith even in the days of Antipas was my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells." Just as in the case of the picture on my wall, I know little about Antipas, but what God chose to reveal in Scripture speaks volumes! Antipas and bro. King are not the only ones who have died because they were faithful to God. What can we learn from these (and other)

martyrs?

### A Martyr Is Living Revelation 2:10.

"Do not fear what you are about to suffer, Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that ye may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." Being "faithful unto death" (KJV, ESV) literally means be faithful to the very taking of your life. This is what martyrs do! When faced with the possibility of losing their lives or losing favor with God, people like Antipas chose to lose their lives!

In addition to Antipas and brother King, another example of a martyr for Christ is a man named Polycarp. Polycarp was contemporary with the apostle John, and suffered death due to his faith. When threatened with death for his refusal to renounce God and worship Caesar, he responded thusly before being burned at the stake: "For

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eighty-six years I've served Jesus, and he has never wronged me in any way. How, then, can I possibly curse my very King and Savior?"<sup>1</sup>

Even today, Christians need to be faithful to God to the very taking of our lives. Martyrs for the cause of Christ show us just what it means to be faithful.

### A Martyr's Example Abides.

Solomon wrote, *"Then I saw the wicked buried. They used to go in and out of the holy place and they were forgotten in the city where they had done such things. This also is vanity"* (**Ecc. 8:10**). In contrast with the evil ones that are often forgotten after their death, years after the death of various martyrs for Christ, we are still talking about them! Their example remains. The apostle Paul taught that the good works of the faithful cannot be hid (**I Tim. 5:25**). In addition to the martyrs we have mentioned, don't forget Stephen, the very first martyr for Christ (**Acts 7**). Certainly, he left an example that not only teaches us, but it had to have also made an impression on a certain Saul of Tarsus (**Acts 7:58**)! Stephen, when he knew he was going to be killed, did not apologize, change his teaching, nor in any way compromise so as to "live another day." His good example abides and teaches us bravery in the face of man's hatred.

### A Martyr Has Vision.

In addition to martyrs specifically named in the Bible, remember that **Hebrews 11:35-38** lists the things which happened to the Lord's faithful in years gone by. *"Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated — of whom the world was not worthy — ...."* One's life ending in a cruel death is not what people desire. Yet, these folks died such deaths, knowing that they would *"rise again to a better life"*! They understood that true meaning and purpose in life is not to be found here on earth, but with God!

**Hebrews 11:35-38** is but one section of Scripture where we see the vision of the faithful. Their principles would not allow them to forsake the Lord. Therefore, they accepted the consequences of being the friend of God and an enemy of the world (cf. **Jas. 4:4**; **Jn. 15:18-20**). **Hebrews 11:13-15** certainly applies to them, because they, like Abraham, Noah, and others, *"desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city."* The man who has his eyes only upon the "here and now" will not have the vision necessary to see the "city" that is yet to come! Let us thank God for those who were faithful to the very taking of their lives, and died in service to God.

### Conclusion

Seeing the realities of what folks in the past have endured for God and for the cause of Christ, let us examine ourselves (**II Cor. 13:5**). Are we faithful to the Lord (**Rev. 2:10**)? Does **I Corinthians 15:58** describe us? If not, why not? Are we standing strong and enduring (**Matt. 10:22**; **Eph. 6:10**)? If not, why not? Are we better than those martyrs? Are we enduring more than they did? Are our enemies stronger than theirs? As the apostle said, we have not yet *"resisted to the point of shedding your blood"* (**Heb. 12:4**), and we pray it will not be so in this land. However, there are many this day who are enduring such trials and afflictions. Let us pray for them, and then prepare, ourselves.

May the words of **Hebrews 10:38-39** ring in our ears and settle in our hearts, so that we live it in our lives! The Holy Spirit said, *"Now the just shall live by faith: and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him. But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls."*

### Endnotes:

1. Bercot, David, [Will The Real Heretics Please Stand Up](#), p. 2

*Credit: The Old Paths - 5/19/13 ♦*

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## 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 ♦

# THE KINGDOM EXISTS NOW

By David J. Riggs

The Bible clearly shows that the kingdom is in existence now. Before the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**), the kingdom was preached as being "at hand." Jesus said in **Mark 1:15**, *"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel."* John the Baptist preached that the kingdom was "at hand" (**Matt. 3:1-2**). Jesus sent the twelve to the lost sheep of the house of Israel and they were to preach "the kingdom is at hand" (**Matt. 10:5-6**). The seventy were to preach "The kingdom of God has come near to you." (**Luke 10:1, 9**). Jesus said that the kingdom would come within the lifetime of some of those who stood in His presence. He said, *"Verily I say unto you, that there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power."* (**Mark 9:1**).

Notice that Jesus said that the kingdom would come with power. Thus, a passage which reveals when the power came also discloses when the kingdom came. In **Luke 24:49**, Jesus told the apostles, *"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."* The same is repeated in **Acts 1:4-5**. **Verse 8 of Acts 1** says, *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."*

From the foregoing passages, we see that the kingdom was to come when the power came (**Mark 9:1**) and the power was to come when the Holy Spirit came (**Acts 1:8**). Very simply therefore, if we can find when the Holy Spirit came, we would know also when the power and the kingdom came since they all were to come simultaneously.

**Acts 2:1-4** is the passage; it describes how the Holy Spirit came on the apostles on the day of Pentecost. That day, therefore, marked the beginning of the kingdom.

After the day of Pentecost the kingdom is no longer spoken of as being "at hand" but as being in existence. The apostle Paul declared that he and the Colossians were translated into the kingdom. *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."* (**Col. 1:13**). They could not have been conveyed or translated into the kingdom if it had not existed; thus, showing most certainly that it did exist. John the apostle said he was a companion in tribulation and in the kingdom (**Rev. 1:9**). John could not have been a partaker in the kingdom if it was yet future, thus again showing that the kingdom is in existence now. The Hebrew writer said, *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."* Again, we cannot receive a kingdom, if there is no kingdom.

By way of summary, the Bible teaches that the kingdom is in existence now. It was "at hand" (**Mark 1:15; Matt. 3:2; 10:5-6; Luke 10:9**) and would come before some of those who stood in the presence of Jesus would die (**Mark 9:1**). It was to come with power (**Mark 9:1**), the power was to come with the Holy Spirit (**Acts 1:8**), and the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-4**). They had received it (**Heb. 12:28**), were translated into it (**Col. 1:13**), and were companions in it (**Rev. 1:9**).

Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/> ♦

## Points To Ponder ...

He who offers God a second place offers Him no place at all.

You quickly lose interest in the church if you have nothing invested. ♦

### About the Hillcrest church of Christ

**Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew**

How to Contact Us	Our Address	Schedule of Assembly
<b>Telephone: (920)499-5677</b> <b>E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com</b>  	1621 Hillcrest Drive Green Bay, WI 54313 	<b>Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am</b> <b>Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am</b> <b>Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*</b> <small>*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month</small>



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