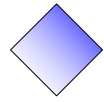


The Voice of Truth



September 8, 2013

Which One Will You Take Your Stand With? Part VIII

By Jimmy Pettigrew

Now, let's look at the Mormons. Let us look at their authority for guiding them in their worship and work. The Mormons consider themselves as Christians for the faith in Christ as Savior, but their founder claims no authority by succession from any other church or sect. Neither did he claim any authority from the Bible. Instead he and his followers testified that they received their authority by direct revelation. The belief is that God continues to reveal His word through the prophets (president of this faith). Four books are their guide: (1) Book of Mormon, (2) Doctrine and Covenants, (3) Pearl of Great Price, (Inspiration is claimed for all other writings of the president their "prophet and seer", (4) Bible (King James Version) Article of Faith 8: The Bible is God's word in as far as it is translated correctly. See 1 Nephi 13:28, 39-41. During the first 13 years, Joseph Smith claimed 135 direct revelations.

The man who promises "Continuous Revelations" downgrades that which God has revealed in His word, and minimizes its completeness; he is an enemy of the Bible! God has in these last days spoken unto us in His Son (**Hebrews 1:1-2**). There is a curse placed on anyone, including an angel that preaches another gospel (**Galatians 1:8-9**). Jude tells us that "THE FAITH", the gospel, has "ONCE FOR ALL" been delivered to the saints (**Jude 3**). A curse is placed on those who would dare to add to or take from God's word (**Revelation 22:18-19**). God has given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness (**2 Peter 1:3**).

"A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies" (**Proverbs 14:5**). We know that it is impossible for God to lie (**Hebrews 6:18**). We are not receiving further revelation! God has given us all we need to be right before Him! Who's lying?

Also, Mormons deny the eternal nature of God. Joseph Fielding Smith stated, "The Prophet [Joseph Smith] taught that our Father had a Father and so on." **Doctrines of Salvation, Vol. 1, p. 10-12**. This absurd idea implies that God had a beginning and denies that He is an eternal being

(**Revelation 1:8; 1 Timothy 1:17; Deuteronomy 33:27**).

With regard to man, Mormonism teaches: (1) that men can become Gods; (2) that men pre-exist as spirits before their birth, and (3) that men are made in the physical image of God. Brigham Young stated: "The Lord created you and me for the purpose of becoming Gods like himself... we are created... to become Gods like unto our Father in Heaven." Journal of Discourses , Vol. 3 , p. 93 , as quoted in Mormonism - Shadow or Reality , p. 164 . The Bible teaches there is one God, not a plurality of gods (**Isaiah 43:1-11; Galatians 3:20; 1 Timothy 2:5; Ephesians 4:6**). It should be noted that the Book of Mormon does not teach the plurality of Gods (Alma 11:27-29).

The Bible teaches that the existence of mankind is due to the creative ability of God (**Genesis 2:7**). Furthermore, a man's spirit does not pre-exist (**Zechariah 12:1**).

Mormonism teaches the following: that God has a physical body, God the Father has a Father, He is merely an exalted man, and God and Adam are the same. The Bible teaches that God is a Spirit (**John 4:24**); that God is not a man (**Numbers 23:19**); and that God is unchangeable (**Malachi 3:6; James 1:17**); and "a spirit hath not flesh and bones" (**Luke 24:39**).

The Mormons teach the doctrine of proxy baptism. Any faithful Mormon can be baptized for any person who has died outside of Mormonism. This is the driving force behind the Mormon obsession for Genealogical research. They want to know who their ancestors were so they can be baptized for them.

How could the action of another person after we are long dead affect our eternal destiny? Our responsibility to God is personal. "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God" (**Romans 14:12**). We must believe or be lost. "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die

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in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24). We must repent of our sins. "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). We must confess Christ. "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9-10). We must be baptized for the remission of our sins. "Then Peter said unto them, 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). No one can do these things for us. The clearest rebuke for the practice of proxy baptism, strangely enough, comes from the Book of Mormons, the ones who practice baptism for the dead. Please note: "Yea, I would that ye would come forth and harden not your hearts any longer; for behold, now is the time and the day of your salvation; and therefore, if ye will repent and harden not your hearts, immediately shall the great plan of redemption be brought about unto you. For behold,

this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God; yea, behold the day of this life is the day for men to perform this labors. And now, as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore, I beseech of you that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; for after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness wherein there can be no labor performed. Ye cannot say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis that I will repent, that I will return to my God. Nay, ye cannot say this; for that same spirit which doth possess your bodies at the time that ye go out of this life, that same spirit will have power to possess your body in that eternal world. For behold, if ye have procrastinated the day of your repentance even until death, behold, ye have become subjected to the spirit of the devil, and he doth seal you his; therefore, the Spirit of the Lord hath withdrawn from you, and hath no place in you, and the devil hath all power over you; and this is the final state of the wicked" (Alma 34:31-35). Which one will you take your stand with?

(Part 9 printed in next week's bulletin) •

"A Teacher Of Error"

By Jarrod Jacobs

In the last couple weeks, we have been studying about what baptism does and what it does not do in *"The Old Paths"*. In connection with these thoughts, I thought it would be appropriate to include this article concerning baptism.

Why did I title this article, "A Teacher of Error" if we are going to talk about baptism? This is because in the recent past, I was accused of teaching error when I told folks that baptism was a necessary part of God's plan for man's salvation! Yes, this happened. Just so you understand, I am not making light of this charge. I take such charges seriously, because I do not want to be guilty of saying things (of a spiritual or physical nature) that are not true (**Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9; II Tim. 4:2;** etc.). As I write this article, I am careful to realize that I am not infallible. I can be wrong at times, and I need to be corrected when I am wrong. However, based upon my study thus far, I cannot come to any other conclusion but that baptism is a necessary part of the Lord's plan for salvation (**ex: Acts 22:16**). I believe when folks sit down with the New Testament and read about what is necessary for salvation, it becomes clear that baptism is an essential act.

In this article, however, I am not merely going to "say" that baptism is essential for salvation. Instead, we will go

to the New Testament and show that this is what is revealed in Scripture. I don't want to teach error on this or any other subject, so let us look and see what has been revealed about baptism throughout the New Testament. Too, once we have learned what the New Testament says, we then are able to tell others what is necessary to be saved.

Jesus Talked About Baptism.

Before He ascended and returned to Heaven, Jesus told the apostles:

1) *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matt. 28:19).*

2) *"Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned" (Mk. 16:16).*

3) *"Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem" (Lk. 24:46-47).*

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his" (Rom. 6:3-5).

The Apostles and Preachers Talked About Baptism.

After Jesus left this world (**Acts 1:9-11**), His apostles then set out to preach the gospel to all creation as Christ commanded them (**Mk. 16:15**). Not only did they preach, but other evangelists joined in this work as well. Between the apostles and the early evangelists, we find emphasis placed upon baptism for the remission of sins.

1) "Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brothers, what shall we do?' And Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'" (**Acts 2:37-38**).

2) "Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, 'See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?' And Philip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, you may.' And he replied, 'I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.' And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him" (**Acts 8:35-38**).

3) "And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' And they said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family" (**Acts 16:29-33**).

4) Ananias told Saul, "And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name" (**Acts 22:16**).

The Epistles Talk About Baptism.

As we read the epistles, we learn some valuable truths concerning baptism revealed in these letters:

1) "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like

2) "In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses" (**Col. 2:11-13**).

3) "Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (**1 Pet. 3:21**).

When Was Error Taught?

After reading ten separate New Testament passages that discuss baptism and its purpose, what conclusion can we draw from our study? Was error taught; and if so, when was it taught and by whom? Is error taught by the one who says baptism is NOT essential to salvation, or by the one who says baptism IS essential to salvation? I believe after this detailed study that the answer is clear: The one who teaches error is the one who says baptism is NOT essential for salvation. The one who teaches the truth is the one who says that it IS essential! Dear friend, if you disagree, please do not dismiss this writing, but go back and reread these Scriptures for yourself. Be honest! What place does baptism hold in the Lord's plan for salvation, if it is not essential for man's salvation?

Conclusion

Do these ten passages somehow "negate" passages we read which command faith or repentance? (**Ex: Jn. 3:16, 8:24; Heb. 11:6; Lk. 13:3; Acts 17:30**; etc.) By no means! Faith and repentance are also essential for man's salvation. In like manner, when we read about faith and repentance, these verses in no way negate the necessity of baptism! No, the Bible does not teach that we are saved by any one thing "alone"; but it is apparent that many in the religious world are prejudiced against being baptized, and so they do whatever they can to explain it away! In such cases, who are the true "teachers of error"?

"What about someone who is honest and sincere, but just mistaken in his belief?" is a question asked at times. The answer is that if this person is as honest and sincere as we believe him to be, then show him the passages we have studied! This honest and sincere person, upon facing

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the truth concerning baptism, will surely do everything in his power to be right with God, including being baptized for the remission of sins! The honest and sincere person will not offer excuses, fight, or argue with the Scriptures that he claims to believe and follow!

For every one who has read this article, how will you respond? Will we gladly accept what the Lord said? Further, will we gladly accept what God has said on all other subjects? Having accepted it, will we teach it to others that they might be saved as well? This is the Lord's way! If you love Him ... **(Jn. 14:15)**. *Credit: The Old Paths - 9/16/12 ♦*

THE ETERNAL KINGDOM

1. There is an eternal kingdom.

2 Pet. 1:11; 1 Cor. 15:50; 2 Tim. 4:18; Luke 23:42

2. It will be ushered in at His Coming and Judgment.

2 Tim. 4:1; Matt. 25:31-34

3. There are only two alternatives.

Mark 9:43-48; Matt. 8:11-12; Luke 13:23-30

4. The rich will hardly enter it.

Matt. 19:24-26; Mark 10:23-27; Luke 18:24-27

5. The poor, rich in faith, are heirs of it.

James 2:5

6. The wicked shall not inherit it.

1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 5:3-6
This includes the wicked in the kingdom.
Matt. 13:31; ex. Matt. 22:11-13; 25:26-30

7. What must we do?

Do the will of the Father - Matt. 7:21-23
Continue in the faith - Acts 14:21-22
Give diligence to add the virtues - 2 Pet. 1:5-11 ♦

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

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com