

CAN ONE BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST WHILE BELIEVING THAT HE WAS SAVED BEFORE BEING BAPTIZED?

by Thomas B. Warren (1920-2000)

Almost all Protestant denominations teach that the alien sinner is saved (becomes a child of God) at the point of faith in Jesus Christ before and without any further act(s) of obedience. The Bible makes clear that this is false, for a number of reasons.

1. It is false because Jesus said, "Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). This means that no one can enter into the kingdom of God without being baptized in the name of Christ (cf. Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-5; Mark 16:15-16; et al.). If one is baptized (immersed in water) without understanding that being baptized in the name of Christ is an act of faith which is essential to salvation, then he is not saved, because he has obeyed a mere human doctrine and not the doctrine of Christ. But one must obey Christ to be saved (Hebrews 5:8-9; Matthew 7:21-23).

2. It is false because it affirms (by implication) that the alien sinner is saved (becomes a child of God) by dead faith. Yet, James 2:24-26 teaches that faith without works is dead. Since whatever is dead is powerless, inoperative, unable to accomplish anything, then obviously no one can be saved by faith only (a dead faith). One is saved only when—because of living faith—as a penitent believer in Jesus Christ, he is baptized in the name (by the authority of) Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38).

3. It is false because it affirms that one can be saved without doing the will of God. Yet, Jesus said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). One is not saved merely by (1) being religious, (2) being sincere in religion or by (3) crying out, "Lord, Lord." While all of the above matters are necessary, they are not sufficient.

One is saved either (1) before he is baptized or (2) when he is baptized or (3) after he is baptized. These are the only possibilities, the truth of the matter is: one is saved when (as a penitent believer) he is baptized into Christ (Acts 2:38; 22:16; Galatians 3:26-27; etc.) The other two possibilities are false. So, no matter how religious, how sincere, how zealous, and so on a person may be, if he has not been baptized into Christ, then he is not a child of God, he is not a Christian.

Every child of God (that is, every Christian) is a member of the church of Christ (the church described on the pages of the New Testament, the church which Jesus bought with His own blood). There is not one Christian living on earth today who is not a member of that church. Every other church is of human origin and, thus, is not authorized by God. Salvation is only in the church which Jesus bought with His blood (Acts 20:28).

May every person deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow Jesus—not men or the doctrines of men (Luke 9:23).

(From The Bible Only Makes Christians Only and the Only Christians. Moore, OK: National Christian Press, 1986. pp. 100-101)

PUZZLE FOR THE WEEK

This puzzle is taken from Hebrews 10:30-39

J	J	E	D	P	S	B	R	J	Q	V	E	F	R	K
J	E	S	N	E	F	O	O	J	E	Z	C	O	E	C
F	A	I	T	H	T	F	U	N	T	B	N	R	P	O
H	M	O	A	L	Z	A	G	L	D	L	E	M	R	T
R	E	C	O	M	P	E	N	S	E	S	I	E	O	S
G	M	H	E	X	A	G	L	I	N	M	T	R	A	G
G	R	B	T	N	E	U	Q	O	M	N	A	U	C	N
G	K	E	C	N	F	Q	I	R	G	U	P	N	H	I
C	N	E	A	R	E	T	T	E	B	Y	L	Q	E	Z
L	B	I	A	T	C	S	V	D	K	I	G	L	S	A
E	I	E	R	I	F	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	I	G
L	F	V	L	U	E	I	Y	L	L	U	F	Y	O	J
F	I	F	I	K	D	H	G	Y	R	R	A	T	X	B
Z	F	M	T	N	O	N	R	H	J	U	D	G	E	C
A	D	X	H	L	G	S	E	L	T	W	H	W	M	R

1. What belongs to God?
2. What does the Lord say He will do?
3. The Lord will do what with His people?
4. "It is a _____ thing to fall into the hands of the _____ God."
5. He calls for them to remember what days?
6. At that time they were what? And they had endured a what of afflictions?
7. "Ye were made a _____ both by _____ and _____"
8. The writer says they had compassion on him when he was in his what? How did they take the spoiling of "your goods?"
9. In heaven we have a what and what substance?
10. You have need of what so that you might receive the what?
11. In a little while he will come and not what?
12. The just will live by what?
13. We are of those who believe to the saving of the what?

A MORE INTERESTING BIBLE

(Author Unknown)

A mother was trying to get her eight-year-old daughter to study her Bible class lesson. She took her Bible down from the shelf, dusted it off and called her daughter to her side, "Now, I want you to read your Bible lesson before you go out to play."

"All right, mother," said the little girl, "but let's study from grandmother's Bible. It's more interesting than yours." "Why, what makes you say that? My Bible is exactly like grandmother's."

"Oh no, mother," the observant little lady insisted. "I'm sure grandmother's Bible must be more interesting than yours because she reads hers so much more often than you do yours."

It is hard to teach what we ourselves refuse to learn! Actions speak louder than words. It will be hard for others to accept our counsel on the importance of Bible study if they do not see us doing it ourselves. May God help us to live the truth which we claim to believe.

NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)

Jason Garland is recovering from shoulder surgery he had for a torn muscle.

Linda Baker was released from Encompass Rehab Hospital and is now at home. She will be continuing therapy in the weeks ahead.

Mitti Stallings will be having another heart valve surgery soon to correct leakage that her last surgery did not correct.

Kelly Rowe, former member, has been diagnosed with colon cancer. It is believed that they caught the cancer in its early stages, and he will begin chemo and radiation treatments.

Marcella Martin, wife of Wayne Martin, (former members) has broken her hip and was to have surgery on Wednesday.

Please check the bulletin boards for updates on the Prayer Request List, and inform us of any needed updates.

“Let all things be done unto edifying.” (I Corinthians 14:26)

Ladies’ Night Out will be this **Tuesday night, February 11th, at 6:30** in the basement. Please bring sandwiches/finger foods and valentines to exchange. Sign the list on the table in the foyer so that we can have copies available to help us personally address our valentines. Desserts will be provided.

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 4:14)

Remember the new calendar on the bulletin board next to the secretary’s office. Each time you invite someone, give a tract or book to someone, or ask someone to study the Bible, please make a point of pinning the calendar as a way to help encourage us all to be evangelistic.

*Copies of **Muscle and a Shovel** are available in the library, along with copies of “Seven Steps in Reaching a Soul with **Muscle and a Shovel.**”*

Those Privileged To Serve

February 9, 2020

SUNDAY MORNING

Song Leader: Micah Tindall
Opening Prayer: Mike Felts
Closing Prayer: Jeff Presley
Bible Reading: Stan Honeycutt
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

LORD’S TABLE

Presiding: Randy Oden
David Loggins Mitch Mosley
Mark Stoker Barry Roush
Kevin Roush Scott Pratt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jody Pickens

SUNDAY EVENING

Song Leader: Micah Tindall
Opening Prayer: Noah Flanrey
Closing Prayer: Carroll Morris
Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

Song Leader: Coltin Powell
Opening Prayer: Braden Hufstedler
Closing Prayer: Sam Light

DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER

(Wednesday, February 12)
Collin Powell

NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK

February 2, 2020

Sunday Bible Study	113
Sunday AM Worship	161
Sunday PM Worship	105
Wednesday Bible Study	99
Contribution	\$6653

SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK:

“Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.”
Proverbs 11:4

THE FRIEND OF TRUTH

Greensboro Road church of Christ

2008 Old Greensboro Road

Jonesboro, Arkansas 72401

(870-932-3920)

“Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?” (Galatians 4:16)

Vol. XXVIII, No. 6

February 9, 2020

KeeNotes

It was so good to see so many present this past Lord’s Day for worship. We did have those who were visiting with us and even though we sorrow for their loss, we rejoiced to see our visiting brethren. Every time we lose a precious soul I am left to wonder who will rise up and take their place. Who will bring the joy and enthusiasm to our assemblies that our sister did? Who will rise up to take her seat at the table? We must continue to work hard to be sure that the table is filled with those awaiting the feast. Keep the Lumpkin family in your prayers.

There is a new calendar that has been fixed on the bulletin board next to the secretary’s office. This calendar is for everyone to note each time you invite someone, give a tract to someone, etc. as a means of encouraging growth and development in the church. Please take a moment to check it out today and make a point of pinning the times and things you are doing to help encourage others and to encourage ourselves in being more evangelistic.

I mentioned Sunday night that our website is being updated and revised and one of the ways in which it is changing is that we have a “Members Only” section which is there for our members to have access to information. It has the church directory as well as the calendar there and from time to time there may also be other information listed for the members. This part of the website is password protected and will be changed from time to time. If you think this would be something of interest to you I will gladly give you the password and access to that area. Again it is ONLY for members of the congregation here, but if you want the password just ask or text me and I can get it to you. Also, if for any reason you do not want your name listed in the directory, let me know and I will remove you from it.

We had a good “ground hog” supper celebrating the birthdays and anniversaries Sunday night. Thanks to everyone who came and enjoyed our time together. There were so many different ways you all found to prepare “ground hog” and I enjoyed seeing how everyone joined in and helped to make our night a good experience for us all.

Make this the best week of 2020 for you and your family. Determine not to miss a single service of the church. Be here for Bible class and worship each time and begin a good habit if it is not already your habit from week to week. God bless you this week.

SHEPHERDS

*Dan Nichols
Randy Oden
Jody Pickens*

DEACONS

*Scottie Blanchard
Jerry Dodson
Mike Felts
Jason Garland
Marshall Lands
Mark Wooten*

EVANGELISTS

Terry Joe Kee

MISSIONARIES

*Michael Hughes
Samrit Kammanee
Arnold Kelley
Guyana, South America
Warren, PA*

SERVICES

SUNDAY

*Classes 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

*Hear the Word of God
Romans 10:17*

*Believe the Word of God
John 8:24*

*Repent of your sins
Luke 13:3*

*Confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God
Romans 10:9,10*

*Be Baptized for the remission of your sins
Acts 2:38*

*Live faithfully
Revelation 2:10*

*“Where there is no vision, the people perish....”
Proverbs 29:18*

God Give Us 2020 Vision

Visit Our Website: greensbororoadchurchofchrist.com