

WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST



“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

SAVED BY ACCIDENT?

Most people leave out a key requirement for initial salvation — baptism. Passages in the New Testament plainly teach the necessity of baptism for salvation, yet confusion remains. I don't think you have to be baptized to be saved, but I've been baptized so I'm safe either way, is the sentiment of some, revealing this confusion.

According to this reasoning, one can be saved without understanding how, making salvation possible by accident. This contradicts what Jesus and the apostles taught.

In **Romans chapter six**, Paul emphasizes to the Christians at Rome the importance of avoiding their former sinful lifestyles. He reminds them in **verses three through five** that they began new lives when they came up out of the water of baptism, and this meant avoiding sin.

Later in the chapter Paul tells the Romans that whereas they had been slaves to sin, they are now righteous. When did they become righteous? When they obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered to them (**v. 17**), and they were made free from sin (**v. 18**). Paul said they obeyed doctrine. Doctrine is another word for teaching. Baptism was a part of their obedience (**Rom 6:3-5**). As a result, they were saved.

The writer of the book of **Hebrews** also recognizes the necessity of obedience to obtain salvation. Of Jesus he writes "**And being made perfect, He became the Author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him**" (**Heb. 5:9**). And Jesus said salvation results from belief and baptism (**Mk. 16:16**).

Does that mean every person who is baptized — regardless of the reason why — is saved? This brings us back to the person who thinks he is safe either way.

Obedience demands understanding. Can a child obey a parent without knowing what that parent expects of him? Or can an employee obey his boss without knowing what the boss expects? No. The same is true of salvation.

The Romans obeyed from the heart what they were taught — meaning they understood what they were taught. Understanding prompted baptism to obtain forgiveness of their sins. Unless you've been baptized for this reason, you haven't obeyed what the Romans did. And if you think you're safe either way, you're trying to make salvation possible by accident, which is impossible. (**see page 2**)

- Landry Brewer, church of Christ

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

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SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: ED KELLEHER

PM: ED KELLEHER

“For what shall it profit a man,
if he shall gain the whole world,
and lose his own soul?

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” - Mark 8:36,37

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TODAY!

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

- **REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** *Judy Walker, Miles Johnson, Richard Ramkinson, Margaret Herring, Wilson Burton, Betty Mathis, Lamar Reeves, Elma Berrier.*
- Jan Kelleher is doing better. Thank you for your prayers.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." - James 5:16

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- Work continues on the residence, replacing windows and some serious trimming of the trees in the front and back yards.
- Remember to **send cards to our visitors!** Brother **Gamble** posts a list each week of visitors and those of our number who need encouragement.

"To them who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life:" - Romans 2:7

HALFWAY! TJ Bolen (and family) will be here at the end of September (Lord willing) as evangelist to help us here in West Columbia. We're making plans for classes and a **Gospel Meeting in October** some time. It will be good to bring people to visit, as we'll then have a full time man to study with folks. Be inviting people to come visit!

KEEP YOUR HEART CLEAN IN 2013

SAVED BY ACCIDENT? (From page 1, editor's comments)

Do we need to know "why"?, when we're baptized? Well, what's the difference between jumping into a swimming pool or lake, and being baptized? In both cases you are fully immersed? Answer: Our mind and understanding of what we're doing makes the difference. This is what God says of baptism:

1 Peter 3:21 "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,)"

*** QUESTIONS ON BAPTISM** - (Scriptural references * from page 3)

Acts 2:37 "Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?"

Matthew 26:28 "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."

2 Timothy 2:10 "... that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory."

Acts 2:47 "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

QUESTIONS ON BAPTISM by Franklin Camp, Gospel preacher

"Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized everyone 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).

If baptism is not a condition of salvation, will you please answer these questions?

- If baptism is not a condition of salvation, why did Peter mention baptism, since he was answering the question of what to do to be saved? (**Acts 2:37* page 2**).
- If salvation comes after baptism, would not repentance also follow salvation, since they are joined by the conjunction "and"?
- Are not repentance and baptism in this verse both for the same purpose?
- If salvation comes before baptism, why does Peter say it is for the remission of sins?
- If the phrase, "**for the remission of sins**" in **Acts 2:38** means because of remission, would not the same phrase in **Matthew 26:28*** (page 2) mean because of remission of sins?
- Did Jesus shed His blood because men were already saved?
- If Christ did not shed His blood because men were already saved, would it not follow that men are not baptized because they are already saved? The phrase in **Matthew 26:28** and **Acts 2:38** are identical in both the Greek and English.
- Would it not be a false doctrine to teach that Christ shed His blood because men were already saved?
- Likewise, is it not a false doctrine to teach that men are baptized, because they are already saved?
- If the people on Pentecost were saved before they were baptized, why were they not added to the church until they were baptized, since such as should be saved were added to the church? (**Acts 2:47***)
- The word church means "the called out" and only those baptized were added to the church. If one is saved before he is baptized, would he be saved before he is called out of the world?
- Is salvation in the world or in Christ? (**2 Timothy 2:10***).
- Considering the following scriptures:
 - "**Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls**" (**Acts 2:41**).
 - "**He that rejeceth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the words that I have spoken will judge him in the last day**" (**John 12:48**).
 - "**Then cometh the devil and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved**" (**Luke 8:12**).
- Can one be saved and not receive the Word? All who received the Word on Pentecost were baptized.
- Were there any on Pentecost who were saved that did not receive the Word?
- Does the Word say "**baptized for the remission of sins**" or "baptized because of remission of sins"?
- How is it possible for one to be baptized as the Word teaches, and not be baptized for the remission of sins?
- If you were not baptized for the remission of sins, you were not baptized as the Word teaches and therefore were not saved. If not, why not?