

HOW CAN WE KNOW?

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I. HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT?

A. -Have a “good and honest heart.”

-Luke 8:15 *And that in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, hold it fast, and bring forth fruit with patience.*

-Heb 1:9 *Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; Therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee With the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*

If people do not love the truth, God allows them to follow falsehood.

2Thes. 2:10-12. *for this cause God sends them a working of error, that they should believe a lie: 12 that they all might be judged who believed not the truth,*

Mt. 13:10-15. *Because they would not see, Jesus spoke in parables that they might not see.*

Mt. 11:25. *At that season Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou didst hide these things from the wise and understanding, and didst reveal them unto babes:*

1Cor. 1:19, 21, 25, 27-29; 2:2-14. *but God chose the foolish things of the world, that he might put to shame them that are wise 29 that no flesh should glory before God.*

2Tim 4:3, 4. *3 For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; 4 and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables.*

Ac. 22:3-16. *God called Paul because he was honest.*

B. We must have the WILL TO DO GOD'S WILL. John 7:17

1. We must be determined to put into action what we learn.

It is not enough to have an idle desire to know something about the Bible. As each new step is revealed before us, we must obey. God then reveals more.

Mt. 7:21-23. *21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that does the will of my Father who is in heaven.*

James 1:21-25. *22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deluding your own selves.*

James 2:14-26. *14 What doth it profit, my brethren, if a man say he hath faith, but have not works? can that faith save him? 24 Ye see that by works a man is justified, and not only by faith. 26 For as the body apart from the spirit is dead, even so faith apart from works is dead.*

Luke 6:46. *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*

John 14:15. *If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments.*

John 14: 21-24.

21 He that hath my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me

23 *If a man love me, he will keep my word*

24 *He that loves me not keeps not my words*

John 15:14. *Ye are my friends, if ye do the things which I command you.*

John 8:31, 32. *If ye abide in my word, (then) are ye truly my disciples; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

John 12:47, 48. *And if any man hear my sayings, and keep them not, I judge him not. He that rejects me, and receives not my sayings, hath one that judges him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day.*

1Jn. 2:3-6. *3 And hereby we know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. 4 He that saith, I know him, and keeps not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; 5 but whoso keeps his word, in him verily hath the love of God been perfected. Hereby we know that we are in him: 6 he that saith he abides in him ought himself also to walk even as he walked.*

Heb. 5:9. *he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation;*

2. **We must do the will of God rather than that of ourselves, our relatives, or our friends.**

-Luke 9:23-25.

23 *And he said unto all, If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. 24 For whosoever would save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it. 25 For what is a man profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose or forfeit his own self?*

-Luke 14:18, 26, 33. *So therefore whosoever he be of you that renounces not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*

-Mt. 6:10. *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth.*

-Mt. 12:50. *For whosoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother.*

-Mt 26:39. *not as I will, but as thou wilt.*

-James 4:3. *Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may spend (it) in your pleasures.*

3. **We must ask of God.**

-James 1:5 *if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God,*

-1Co. 3:6 *I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.*

-Jn. 6:44 *No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him:*

4. **We must search the Scriptures.**

- Ac. 17:11, 12. *Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily, whether these things were so. 12 Many of them therefore believed;*
- James 1:21 *receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*
- 2Tim. 3:16, 17 *Every scripture inspired of God (is) also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness. 17 That the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work.*
- Col. 3:16. *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms (and) hymns (and) spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God.*

II. DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE WHAT WE BELIEVE AND DO?

Matthew 7:13-23

The way is narrow (vss. 13-14)

Not everyone who says, Lord, Lord, shall enter,-not even if they claim to prophesy, or to cast out demons, or to have done many mighty works. (vss. 21-23)

The wise man built upon the rock is he who hears and does what Jesus commands.

Matthew 15:1-14

Worship is vain when the doctrines of men are being taught. (vs. 9)

If the blind lead the blind they will both fall into the pit. (vs. 14)

John 8:31-32

We must abide in His work to be His disciples. (cf. 1Jn. 2:3-6; 5:3; Jn. 14:21- 24)

It is the TRUTH that makes us free. (cf. John 17:17)

2Tim. 4:3, 4

“The time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables.”

John 12:48

“The word that I have spoken shall judge you in the last day.” (cf. Lev. 10:1, Prov. 14:12; 28:26; 2Co. 4:3-4; 1Jn. 2:3-6; Luke 12:51-53; Gal. 1; 6-10; 2 Thes.; 2:10-12)

III. “What Must I Do To Be Saved?” Acts 16:30

A. HEAR: Rom. 10:17

-**Why?** “Faith comes by hearing” (cf. Rom. 10:14; Ac. 18:18; 11:13, 14; Lk. 8:15; 1Co. 1:21; Is. 53:11; Jn. 8:47)

-**Hear what?** “The word of God.” (Jn. 12-48-50; Jas. 1:18-25; 2Tim. 3:16, 17; Eph. 6:17; Col. 3:16; Ac. 17:11, 12; Lk. 8:11, 15; Jn. 17:17; 8:31, 32; Mt. 7:21-24; 4:4)

B. BELIEVE: Mark 16:16

-**What is faith?** Heb. 11:1 “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”
(cf. Rom. 8:24; Tit. 1:2; 1Co. 15:16-20; 2Co. 5:7)

-**Why must we believe?**

1. Heb. 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please God.
2. Mk 16:16 He that believes and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believes not shall be damned.
(Jn. 3:16; Eph. 2:8; Heb. 10:39)

-**What must we believe?**

-**About God:** Heb. 11:6

1. That God is (cf. Rom. 1:19-22, 25, 28; Ps. 53:1; 2:4; Deut. 4:35, 39; Ac. 17:24, 28; Ex. 3:14; Heb. 10:30, 31; Gen. 1:1).
2. That God rewards those who seek him (cf. Jas. 1:5-7; Jn 7:17; 1Jn. 5:14; Mt. 6:33; Lk. 11:13; Rev. 22:12-14).

-**About Christ:** (cf. Jn. 20:27; 1:14; Heb. 1:1-3; Col. 1:13-23; Ac. 16:30-33)

1. Jn. 20:31 That Jesus is the Christ. He is the promised “Messiah” or “anointed one” foretold in the OT (Dan. 9:24-27; Ac. 10:38)
2. 1Cor. 15:1-7
-He died for our sins (Rom. 3:25; 4:25; 5:8-10; Rev. 1:5; Is. 53:4-6, 8; 1Pe. 1:18, 19)
-He was buried (Rom. 6:4, 5; Col. 2:12).
-He was raised the third day (Rom. 10:9, 10; 6:4-8; Jn. 2:19-22; Mk. 16:9; Lk. 24:37-40; 1Thes. 4:14; Ac. 2:26, 27, 31).
-He was seen” by many (Jn 20:19-29)
3. 2Tim. 4:8 He will appear again from the heavens to raise the dead and reward each man according to his works (1Thes. 4:14-17; Heb. 9:27-28; 2Pe. 3:11-13; Rev. 1:7; Mt. 24:23, 27, 30; 25:31-46; 2Thes. 1:7-10).

C. **REPENT:** Ac. 3:19 Repent and turn again that your sins may be blotted out. (Ac. 2:38; 17:30; 2Co. 7:10)

D. **CONFESS JESUS AS LORD** Rom. 10:9-10 (cf. Mt. 16:15, 16; 10:32; Philip 2:9-11; 1Tim. 6:12-13; Heb. 10:23)

E. BE BAPTIZED

In the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38)

Calling on the name of the Lord (Acts 22:16; Rom. 10:13; Matt. 28:18-19)

Appealing to God for a clear conscience. (1Pe. 3:21)

F. BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

Revelation 2:10. *Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.* (cf. Rev. 3:11; 1Pet. 5:4; 1Tim. 4:8)

(Note: This is not sinless perfection)

IV. HOW IS SCRIPTURAL BAPTISM PERFORMED?

A. By immersion in water.

Matt. 3:6. John baptized IN (Greek: *en*) the Jordan.

Matt. 3:16. Jesus went up from (Greek: *apo*) the water.

Mark 1:5. John baptized IN (Greek: *en*) the river Jordan.

Mark 1:9. Jesus was baptized of John "IN" (Greek: *eis* --into) **the Jordan.**

Mark 1:10. Jesus came from (Greek: "apo" the water.

John 3:23. John baptized in Aenon because there was **MUCH** water.

Acts 8:36. They came TO a certain water.

Acts 8:38. Both Philip and the Eunuch went down INTO (Greek: *eis*) the water and he baptized him.

Acts 8:39. They came up OUT (Greek: *ek*) OF the water.

Acts 16:13, 15. Lydia was baptized at a RIVER.

Acts 16:32-33. The Jailer had to take them out to be baptized.

Acts 22:16. arise and be baptized (necessary to go to the water--not to be sprinkled)

1Cor. 10:2 "Baptized into Moses IN (Greek: *en*) the cloud and IN (Greek: *en*) the sea."

Eph. 5:26. "Cleansed by (Greek: dative case) the WASHING (Greek: 2067 *lutron*) of water with the word."

Heb. 10:22. "...body WASHED¹ with (Greek: dative case) pure water..."

1Pe. 3:20-21 Noah's family saved *through* or *by* (*dia*) water of the flood, which after a true likeness we are saved by baptism.

Rom. 6:4-5 "BURIED in LIKENESS OF HIS DEATH" and "RAISED" (Col. 2: 12; 3:1).

Note: If baptism is like the burial of Jesus it would not be a little water (Mt 27:59-66)

B. The Greek word for "Baptize" means to "immerse" or "dip".

¹ Strong: 3068 *louo* (loo'-o);

A primary verb; to bathe (the whole person);
whereas #3538 ["*nipito*"] means to wet a part only,
and #4150 ["*pluno*"] to wash, cleanse garments exclusively):

1. This is confirmed by Lexicons, Encyclopedias, and Dictionaries.
Dictionaries sometimes define it as, “make whelmed” meaning “fully wet”. The thing baptized was completely covered such as when the hands or body was washed. The same is true when speaking of their baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was poured out in such great measure that they were immersed..
2. Greek was the language of the New Testament. Greek speaking peoples have always immersed.
3. Ancient baptisteries, back to the time of Constantine, were large enough to immerse.
--Ency. Britannica, 1956, Vol. 3, p.86, “Baptistry”
4. Pouring was first introduced in the third century for the sick. It was called “clinic” baptism because it was only permitted if someone was too ill to be immersed. If they became able later, they were baptized scripturally.
5. Great theologians (Luther, Calvin, Wesley, etc.) agree that immersion was the ancient form.
6. The root word from which it comes is “bapto” (Strong, #911). It is repeatedly used of dipping or immersing (Luke 16:24; John 13:26).

C. The LXX (Greek Septuagint translation of the Old Testament into Greek) used baptizo to translate the Hebrew word, (#2881 tabal) when Naaman “dipped” himself seven times in the Jordan (II Kings 5:14).

D. The Greek words, “rantizo” (#4472 “sprinkle”) and “ekcheo” (#1632 “pour”), are never used of water baptism. Indeed, in Heb. 10:22, “rantizo” is contrasted to “luo” which is sometimes used for baptize. It says that our hearts are SPRINKLED (#4472 “rantizo”) (with blood Heb. 9:13-14) and our bodies are WASHED (#3068 “luo”) with pure water. This was not merely put upon the head.

V. THE PURPOSE OF BAPTISM. (cf. Rom. 6:3-18; Col. 2:12; 1Pe. 3:21)

Ac. 2:38 (cf. vss. 39-40)

-**Remission of sins**. (Note Mt. 26:28 Blood is also “FOR” remission of sins.)

Ac. 22:16 “Be baptized. and wash away sins.”

(Note: He had seen Jesus, fasted, prayed, was healed, called Jesus Lord, saw a vision, etc. but still had his sins. (cf. 9:9, 11; 22:10)

Eph. 5:26 “Cleansed by washing of water with the word.: (The word says be baptized)

Rom. 6:6-7 (cf. vss. 3-5) “Sins done away...freed from sin by death” (in baptism).

Heb. 10:22, 19; 9:13-14; 12:24 Having our hearts sprinkled with blood to cleanse an evil conscience and our bodies washed in pure water conscience cleansed.”

-Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

1Co. 12:13 (cf. vs. 3) “Baptized..drink of Spirit.” (cf. Jn. 7:37-39; Lk. 11:9-13)

1Jn. 5:7-8 (cf. vs. 1) “Water, Spirit and Blood agree in one.” (cf. Jn. 19:30, 34)
(cf. 4:13; 3:24 We know we abide in him by the Spirit he gave us.)

Tit. 3:5-6 “Saved by washing of regeneration and renewing of Holy Spirit.”

Jn. 3:3-5 “Born of water and Spirit: (cf. 1:12-13; 7:37-39; Gal. 5:25)

(Note: “water” in vs. 23 and 2:7-9; cf. Heb. 10:22. Note: “How..when OLD?”)

Ac. 5:32 “Given to them that OBEY” (cf. Rom. 6:3, 7, 17, 18)

Note: Without the Spirit we are not Christ's. Rom. 8:9-11, 14, 16, 26, 27; 5:5; 15:30.

(Spirit of Christ or God, see: 1Pe. 1:11-12 (cf. 2Pe. 1:21); Ac. 16:6-7; 1Co. 6:19; Eph. 2:18, 22; Mt. 3:16)

The Spirit is the “earnest” of our salvation, Eph. 1:13-14; 2:18, 22; 2Co. 1:21-22;

1Thes. 4:8; Heb. 6:4.

Rom. 6:3-7

-Into Christ Gal. 3:27 “PUT ON Christ.” 1Cor. 12:13 “Into the Body.”

cf. 2Co. 5:17 “IF one is in Christ he is a new creature.” Rom. 8:1 “No condemnation.”

See also Ac. 4:12; 2Tim. 2:10-11.

-Into the death of Christ..crucified with Him...Dead to sin.

Note: By “baptism into death” we die with him, sharing the blood He shed.

If this takes place we are justified, saved, and reconciled. (cf. 5:9-10; 2Tim. 2:10-11; Eph. 1:7; 2:13; Col. 2:12-13, 20; 3:1-3, 9)

Note: “Water, Spirit, blood agree in one.” (Heb. 10:22; 9:14; Jn. 3:5; Ac. 22:16)

-Receive “New Life”...Old man done away,

cf. vs. 3, “into Christ” (above) with 2Co. 5:17; “IF a new creature.”

Jn. 3:3-5 “Born” (see line 16 above). cf. Jn. 1:12-13: 1Jn. 3:1-2; 2:29; Gal. 5:25.

Gal. 3:26-27 “Sons..for as many as we were baptized did put on Christ.”

Col. 2:13 “made alive with him” Eph. 2:5-6; Tit. 3:5

cf. Also on “Born”, James 1:18; 1Pe. 1:23; 2:2; 1Co. 3:1; Heb. 5:13

1Pe. 3:20-21

To be “SAVED”. (Rev. Version “Baptized.. the appeal for a clear conscience.”)

Compare Rom. 6:3-4, 7, 17, 18; Col. 2:12; Ac. 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27 on the purpose.

Mk. 16:16 “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.”

Tit. 3:5 “Saved by washing of regeneration” (cf. Ac. 22:16; Heb. 10:22; Eph. 5:26)

Ac. 2:38, 40-41 “Repent and be baptized...Save yourselves..”

Note Eph. 2:5-6; 2Tim. 2:10-11 compared with Rom. 6:3-7 on “died” and “raised”.

VI. SHOULD ANYONE BE RE-BAPTIZED? Ac. 19:1-5

John baptized *unto repentance*:. We must be baptized *into Christ*. (cf. Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27). After Jesus' death, (cf. Heb. 9:15-17; Rom. 7:1-4) baptism had to be repeated if it was not “into (Greek) the name of the Lord Jesus” (cf. Mt. 28:19; Ac. 8:16; Ac. 19:5) because it was necessary to participate in his death. (Rom. 6:3-8; Col. 2:12-13) Also it must be in faith from the heart. (Rom. 6:3, 17; Col. 2:12; 1Pe. 3:21; Ac. 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27) No mere performance of an act is sufficient (such as doing it to join a church or doing it as a baby). Here in Ac. 19, even baptism just for repentance was not enough.

VII. ARE WE SAVED, OR JUSTIFIED, BY “FAITH ALONE”?

ANSWER:

James 2:14-26 We are “*NOT justified (or saved) by faith only*”. (see vs. 14, 19) James tells us that there are two kinds of faith. A faith that has no works cannot save (vs. 14) because it is “dead” (vs. 26). Demons have this kind of faith and even tremble, but they are not saved. Such a faith is not “made perfect” and thus being defective is incapable of salvation.

Saving faith is one that is alive by combining conviction with action. Obedience is the spirit that makes this faith live. This is not to earn our salvation, but that our faith may be “obedience from the heart”. (Rom. 6:16-18; cf. 3-7; 16:26; Ac. 5:32; Mt. 7:21-26; Lk. 6:46; Jn. 15:14; 7:17; James 1:22-25)

1Pe. 4:17 “*What shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God.*”

1Pe. 1:22 “*Ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth*”

In Gal. 3:26-27; Col 2:12; 1Pe. 3:27 etc. we find baptism considered as being related to faith rather than being regarded as a work of merit. Thus, if one was not baptized, his faith was not yet “*made perfect.*”

Illustration: Jn. 9:6-7 The man was required to wash in the pool. He was not healed until he did so, but this certainly did not EARN his healing. While obedience was necessary, his healing was by God's grace rather than by works. (cf. 2K. 5:9-14)

Question: Why do some scriptures say we are saved by faith but do not mention baptism (Ac. 16:30)?

ANSWER: Because it is not necessary in each and every scripture to specify every factor or condition relevant to salvation (such as blood of Christ, love of God, Grace, calling on the Lord,

confession of Christ, repentance, etc.). In one text it may focus on some things and in another on others. All of them are essential parts of the plan. One statement does not nullify another. One situation may need emphasis on repentance or baptism. Objecting to different answers in different situations is like of the fellow who asked the time at different periods in the day and then said, “That's funny, I've been asking the same question all day and keep getting different answers.”

When faith is specified it is understood that it is the kind that is given life through obedience. This includes baptism
(Rom. 6:3-7, 16-18; Gal. 3:26-27).

Question: “Why does Paul say he was not sent to baptize? (1Co. 1:17)

ANSWER: Baptism was not his job. His duty was to preach. Others baptized for him. Jesus did the same (Jn. 4:2). This does not contradict Mt. 28:18-20. While Paul did not regard it as his primary work, he certainly did baptize and he taught the importance of baptism. Paul does not contradict Peter and others.

Question: “Was not the thief on the cross saved without baptism?”

ANSWER: I can't say that he was. He may have been baptized with John's baptism, like Peter, and then backslid. In any case, the whole question is entirely irrelevant because an exception made by Jesus in his lifetime cannot be urged against the rule that was laid down for us to follow. The thief lived under the Old Testament which required “repentance unto forgiveness of sins (Luke 3:3).” We live under the New Testament which requires us to be baptized into Christ. The New Testament did not come into force until after the thief had already been forgiven. (Heb. 9:15-17)

VIII. SHOULD INFANTS BE BAPTIZED?

As Luther wrote, “*It cannot be proved by the sacred Scriptures that infant baptism was instituted by Christ, or begun by the first Christians after the apostles.*”

We have no example in the Bible of any child being baptized. Even after infants became older Christ affirms them to be pure. (Mt. 18:1-6; 19:13-15.) Note they were old enough to “believe” and “come” to him.

Jesus did not baptize them. While it is true that physical death came upon all men through the transgression of Adam yet it is also true that through Jesus all will be raised. It is false to claim that the Bible anywhere teaches that neglect of baptizing an infant will result in its eternal torment. The death of the body was the consequence of Adam's sin, but the death of the soul can only be the consequence of each man's own sin. (Jer. 31:29-34. compare Heb. 8)

Baptism is only for believers

Mk. 16:15-16 “Preach..to every creature. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Rom. 10:9-17 “How shall they believe without a preacher?...faith comes by hearing..”

CoL. 2:12 “Raised with him through faith in the operation of God.”

Rom. 6:17-18 cf. vs. 3-8 “Obedient from the heart.”

Heb. 10:22-23 “Hearts sprinkled from evil conscience and bodies washed with pure water”.

1Pe. 3:21 an appeal to God for a clear conscience..” (RSV)

Gal. 2:26-27 “Sons...through faith, for as many..as are baptized. into Christ, put on Christ”.

Eph. 5:26 “by the washing of water with the word.”

Ac. 2:38 “Repent and be baptized..FOR the remission of your sins.: cf. vs. 41 “received the word.”

Note vs. 39 that the same requirements were for their children.

Ac. 8:12, 14, 16 Only Samaritan believers were baptized.

Ac. 22:16 Paul had to call on the name of the Lord.

Ac. 10:2, 42, 44; 11:14, 17-18. Those who heard, believed and repented were baptized.

Ac. 16:30-31-32, 34 Those who heard, believed and repented were baptized.

Ac. 18:8 Crispus and the Corinthians believed before baptism.

Mt. 28:19-20 “Make disciples of all nations, baptizing..” (cf. Mk. 16:15-16 “preach..baptize”)

OBJECTION:

It is argued that since Matt. 28:19 says we are to baptize the nations, and nations have children, therefore we should baptize infants.

ANSWER:

They were told to “make disciples...baptizing them.” Disciples are learners.

The Greek here does not say to baptize the nations and then make them learners. It tells them to make disciples (learners) and baptize them. (Rom. 10:17 “faith comes by hearing”)

Nothing is said of infants.

Nations have unbelievers also. We are no more to baptize them in their unbelief than to baptize infants in unbelief.

OBJECTION:

Some have claimed that baptism should be for infants because of baptism of households were said to be baptized.

Stephanus's household (1Co. 1:16) was only three years later old enough to work in the ministry. (1Co. 16:15-16)

The Jailor's household (Acts 16:31) was apparently old enough to hear the word of the Lord (16:32).

Concerning Lydia (Acts 16:14) we have no indication that she had any infants in her household. It seems unlikely since she was a business woman from Thiatira, living across the sea in Philippi, who seems not to have had any husband to consult about inviting Paul and his companions to come into her house.

Heb. 8:11 (cf. Jer. 31:29-30 from which it was quoted. cf. also Ezek. 18:19,20) cf. vs. 6-12

Christ established a “New Covenant,” “not according to the old” (In which the child began as an infant circumcised the eighth day and had to be later taught to “know the Lord”). The new covenant would be based upon faith. They would accept the Lord themselves and therefore would already know Him from the least to the greatest. It would be written upon their hearts, not with ink or upon tables of stone (2Cor. 3)

The basis for infant baptism has been primarily on the claim of inherited guilt. According to the claim, unless baptized to remove original sin, infants are damned.

This is one of the most repugnant and obviously false doctrines that developed during the period of apostasy (2Thes. 2:2:12). It defies all reason and revelation that infants who have never had the possibility of doing good or evil should be damned for the sins of their fathers by an all-knowing and loving God. Rather, it reeks of the hand of Romanist exploitation to use children to maintain control over parents.

Certainly, no command or example can be found of damnation of infants for the sins of parents. Jesus taught exactly opposite (Matt. 18:1-3, 10; 19:13-14.).

Jeremiah and Ezekiel both taught that under the new covenant of the Messiah, children would not be held responsible for the sins of the fathers (Jer. 31:29-34 cf. Heb. 8; Ezek. 18:19,20). The difference has to do with the fact that the old covenant was one relating to the things of this world (Heb. 9:1). The things of the New relate to the spiritual, heavenly and eternal.

Romans 5:12-19 is commonly used to argue for inherited sin. While this teaches that Adam’s sin brought physical death to all, it does not teach inherited damnation. We inherit guilt in the flesh that causes it to die. It says nothing of inheriting guilt of the soul. Christ will repeal the sin of Adam and raise us but only “in Christ” shall we all be made spiritually alive (1Cor. 15:21,22).

Some have claimed baptism came in the room of circumcision, and since infants were circumcised, therefore children should be baptized. As we have seen above we are no longer under the old covenant (cf. Heb. 8:6-12; Gal. 5:1-4; 3:10-27; 4:21-30). Col. 2:11 tells us we have a circumcision NOT made with hands. Baptism certainly was not administered as was circumcision. Circumcision was only for males. It was to be on the 8th day. Baptism is for believers, both men and women.

It is claimed that we are told to baptize “children” in Acts. 2:38,39. This does not say they are unbelieving infants. Children may be old enough to believe (Mat. 18:6; 1Jo. 2:18). In fact, the promise was that if they repented and were baptized for the remission of their sins, they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Until they were old enough to repent this would not apply. The promise was not that if they would baptize their babies, they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

IX. CAN A CHRISTIAN FALL FROM GRACE AND BE LOST?

Gal. 5; 1-4 *Stand fast. Christ has made us free, and be not AGAIN entangled.
Christ will profit you nothing...severed from Christ...FALLEN FROM GRACE.*

Heb. 10:26-39 *Fierceness of fire shall devour...sanctified by blood..his people.
10:37-39. My righteous one shall live by faith. If he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in
him.
...Shrink back unto perdition. contrasted with faith to saving of the soul.*

Heb. 6:4-8 *Once enlightened...partakers of the Holy Spirit...end is to be burned.*
Note: “taste”-Heb. 2:9; Ac. 20:11.
“Gift” -Eph. 2:8.
“partake” -2:14; 12:8, 10; 3:1.
“Holy Spirit” -1Co. 12:13; Eph. 1:13-14.

1Co. 9:24--10:12 *I buffet my body..lest I myself should be rejected... Our fathers were
baptized..drank of Christ...but were overthrown... These things were written for out
example... Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. cf. Jude 5; Ex. 14:13:30.*

Lk 12:41-46. If the good servant starts beating his fellows he will be appointed a part with the
unbelievers.

Jn. 15:1-6 “Every branch in me that bears not fruit...they are burned.” (cf. Rom. 11)

James 5:19-20 “My brethren if any among you err from the truth, and one convert him...save a
soul from death...”

2Pe. 2:20-22 *If, after they have escaped...again entangled...last state is worse than the first... (cf.
2:14-15; 1:9-11; Mt. 12:43-45)*

Ezek. 18:24 *None of his righteous deeds that he hath done shall be remembered...*(also Ezek.
33:13)

Rev. 3:5 Names may be blotted out of the book of life. (cf. Rev. 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19;
Phil. 4:3; Ex. 32:32-33; Dan. 12:1; Luke 10:20)

KJV Revelation 3:11 *Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take
thy crown. (“crown of life” cf. Rev. 2:10; James 1:12)*

Rev. 3:16 *So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of
my mouth.*

Rev. 2:26 He that overcomes and keeps Christ's words unto the end shall be saved
(cf. Mt. 10:22; Rev. 2:5; 3:15-16; 2:7, 10-11)

2Pe. 1:8-11 “Forgotten the cleansing from his old sins. Make your election sure.”
(Also see Rom. 8:12-13; 1Cor. 15:1-2 “IF”)

Lk. 8:13 “Those who believe and in time of temptation fall away.”

1Cor. 8:11 The weak brother can perish.

Rom. 11:15-28 Some were cut out and others grafted in. (Note: This continues from Romans 9, a favorite passage of Calvinists)

QUESTIONS:

#1 “Once a person is a child of God, how could he be unborn?”

ANSWER: Lk. 3:38 says Adam was the son of God and yet because he sinned, he died. cf. James 5:19-20; Rev. 3:5; 20:15; 1Tim. 5:6.

#2 “Does not Jn. 6:39 teach it is God's will that Jesus should lose nothing?”

ANSWER: Yes, and it is also his will that “ALL” should come to eternal life. However, we cast the deciding vote. (cf. 2Pe. 3:9; Jn. 7:17; 2Pe. 1:9-10)

#3 “Does not Jn. 10:27-29 teach that no one can snatch them out of His hand?”

ANSWER: We are His sheep because we have His nature. We are absolutely secure so long as we remain in the faith. However, one can depart (1Tim. 4:1; 1Tim. 1:19).

#4. “1Jn. 3:6 says that anyone who sins has not seen him.”

ANSWER: This is in the perfect tense, which indicates continuing action --“*does not continue seeing him.*”

#5. Heb.13: 5. Did not God say, “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

ANSWER: This is in the context that we are not to be covetous or fearful—not of a person living in sin. God will not forsake us but we may depart from Him.

1Tim. 4:1 *Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall **depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;*

Conclusion: 1Jn. 1:6; 2:1-6 says, “*He that says, I know him, and keeps not his commandments is a liar.*” The person who thinks he stands better learn a lesson from the Israelites and “*take heed lest he fall.*” (1Co. 10:1-12)

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