

## “Second Chance After Death?”

Both the Mormon Church and the Catholic Church teach that there will be a second chance after this life for those who die in sin. But these two religious groups approach this concept differently. The Mormon Church interprets First Corinthians 15:29 to justify a member of their church being baptized for their loved ones or others who die without having their sins forgiven. *“Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? Why are they then baptized for the dead?”* Instead of studying the subject discussed in its context, the passage is lifted from its context by the Mormons. Its been rightfully said that, “A text taken from its context becomes a pretext.”

The subject in verse 29 is the same as the rest of the 15th chapter. That subject is the resurrection of the dead. Emphasis in the first part of the chapter is upon the fact and proof of Christ’s resurrection from the dead. Our resurrection to eternal life is based upon that of the Son of God. Some at Corinth denied that the saints would be resurrected. This was answered by Paul who wrote, *“Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?”* (I Cor. 15:12). The Son of God was resurrected from the dead, in order for Christians to be resurrected to eternal life. With this in mind, Paul further said, “But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain” (I Cor. 15:13-14). This placed those members of the body of Christ at Corinth who denied the general resurrection in a dilemma. They evidently accepted the fact of the resurrection of Christ, but denied the general resurrection of the human race (Jhn. 5:28-29).

First Corinthians 15:29 does not teach anything close to the false concept that living saints can be baptized for those who died without obtaining forgiveness. Salvation is not by proxy! Every person will have to give account for how he has lived.

Another passage of scripture is often used by those who teach a second chance after death. “For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached to the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the long suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water” (I Pet. 3:18-20).

Many conclude from this passage that Christ preached to lost men after they died. But the passage above does not say *when* the Son of God preached to those rebellious spirits of the antediluvian period who were— at Peter’s writing — confined in the prison of the hadean realm. Their disobedience took place while Noah and his sons were building the ark. God gave the human race 120 years in which to repent (Gen. 6:3), and it was at that time that Noah, “a preacher of righteousness” preached unto them. They rejected his preaching and he saved only his family (II Pet. 2:5; Gen. 7:13). Jesus preached to them through Noah in the same sense that He later preached to the Gentiles (Eph. 2:17). Our Lord never personally preached to the Gentiles of the Christian dispensation. The apostle Paul was the Lord’s “earthen vessel” to take the gospel unto the Gentiles.

The Word of God emphatically stresses that mankind has only this present life to prepare for eternity. We will be judged by how we live here in this physical world. Paul wrote, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”* (II Cor. 5:10).

Hebrews 9:27 also tells us that we must face judgment according to our spiritual state at death. This is also vividly shown in the story of the rich man and Lazarus which tells us that the spiritual state of an individual cannot be changed in the next life (Lk. 16:26).

Those who do not obey the gospel of Christ will be eternally lost (II Thess. 1:7-9). The scripture does not teach that there will be a second chance for anyone after death.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES  
SUNDAY:      WEDNESDAY:  
Bible Classes for all ages 10:00 am      Bible Classes for all ages 7:00 p.m.  
Morning Worship 11:00 am.  
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.  
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## A STARK REMINDER THAT THE LORD IS SERIOUS WHEN IT COMES TO OBEDIENCE...

If ever there was a man with good intentions, it was Uzzah. Not a name frequently mentioned in Holy verse, Uzzah was accompanying the ark of the covenant as it was being transferred from Kirjath-jearim to Jerusalem according to King David’s instructions. We pick up then with the Bible account:

“And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him, from Baalejudah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, which is called by the Name, even the name of Jehovah of hosts that sitteth above the cherubim. And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in the hill: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drove the new cart. And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab, which was in the hill, with the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark. And David and all the house of Israel played before Jehovah with all manner of instruments made of fir-wood, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with castanets, and with cymbals. And when they came to the threshing-floor of Nacon, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen stumbled. And the anger of Jehovah was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.” (II Sam 6:2-7 ASV)

Specific instructions concerning transportation of the ark were set forth in God’s law (Num. 4). No place in scripture was there anything that might remotely be construed as qualifying Uzzah to touch the ark. But at the same time, we freely admit that no where in God’s word do we find an explicit prohibition reading, “Uzzah, you shall not touch or steady the ark.” You might think Uzzah’s crime to be petty, or even of no consequence. God’s anger was “kindled against Uzzah,” and smitten of the Lord, Uzzah pays for his sin by death. Modern theologians would look at Uzzah’s actions and saying, “No big deal.” Some would no doubt ask, “where does God forbid Uzzah to touch the ark?” What man thinks is insignificant may very well be important in the sight of our almighty God. The account of Uzzah teaches us that indeed, that which is unauthorized is prohibited.

Author Unknown

## 2010 IS...

A brand new candle, about to be lit, that will burn itself out in twelve short months . . .

Another volume in our book of life, full of blank pages that we shall write upon with living history as time moves on . . . a fresh suit of clothes without wrinkle or spot, just ready to be put on and, as yet, without soil or tear . . . an open door, on the other side of which many paths are found -- some of trial and tears, others of joy and triumph, some of failure, others of opportunity, ere the door is closed . . . a new plant about to push through the earth's crust, destined to bear some kind of fruit, either good or evil . . . a piece of soft clay over which each person exercises the power of the potter to mold it into a shape of his own choosing.

Worldlings will live out this new year in a Monday through Friday context. Christians will live theirs from Sunday to Sunday, looking forward to each Lord's day when we can assemble with our spiritual family to worship the Lord and to study His word. While those outside try to fight the battles and face the trials of life on their own, the Lord's people will draw from the inexhaustible source of spiritual strength, found only in submission to mankind's only right ruler.

As we are about to begin the new year, it is a good time to view the year that is passing in retrospect. How many times did I choose not to arrive in time for the spiritual feast of my Bible Class? How many weeks did I neglect to contribute financially to the spreading of God's kingdom? How many weeks did I "freeze up" when I had a good opportunity to say something to someone about the Lord and His church? How many times did I compromise the morals of the gospel to keep from being different from "the crowd"? How many times did I say "No", when the call went out for the workers? If you can say "None". That's wonderful! You certainly moved to higher ground this passing year. If your record was not so good this passing year, have you considered the truth that just as many times as you placed something ahead of serving God, you proclaimed that He was not in control of your life?

Now, look at this coming new year again. Only you can determine what sort of flame its candle will burn. Only you can decide what sort of lines will be written upon its blank pages. You alone are responsible for how free of soil and wear your suit of life remains. The choice is yours as to how you walk the paths that are set before you. The fruit produced and the vessel molded are in your control. Determine to make this coming new year the best year of your life.

*Ken Chumbley*

*adapted from an article by Dub McClish*

Our prayer is that God will bless you and yours, and the Belvedere church during this coming year and that together we will work diligently for the Master's cause in 2010 – The Chumbleys.

## NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron's sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, and Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Jean Peebles was taken to the emergency room Sunday as a result of an insect bite that had cause he hand and arm to swell. She was admitted and given antibiotics intravenously. She was released from the hospital on Wednesday and is recovering well.

Lanny Niver was not out Sunday as he had bad toothache pain. He had a dental appointment Tuesday to take care of the problem.

Kathy Treadway is going to be "in and out" over the holiday period visiting with family.

Cynthia Wilson is in for a few days. She didn't get here until Wednesday because of the snowstorm in Boston.

We will be having a pot luck after the morning services. Plan to stay and eat with us.

### God's Precious Promises:

#### **When I am tempted...**

*"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).*

#### **When I have sinned...**

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (I John 1:9).*

#### **When I am lonely...**

*"Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20).*

#### **When I am afraid...**

*"Fear thou not; for I am with thee; be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" (Isaiah 41:10).*

#### **When I need guidance...**

*"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he will direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6).*

#### **When I need wisdom...**

*"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not: and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).*

#### **When I fear death...**

*"...I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die..." (John 11:25-26).*

*Selected*