

## If Baptism Is Not A Condition of Salvation, Will You Answer These Questions?

“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, why did Peter mention baptism, since he was answering the question of what to do to be saved? (Acts 2:37).

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 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?

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 Tim. 2:10).

“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 rejecteth 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?

*Franklin Camp (deceased)*

# BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

Volume 10                      Number 10                      March 8, 2009  
A PUBLICATION OF THE BELVEDERE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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## Crucified With Christ

In Galatians 6:14 Paul says, “But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.” In this verse, Paul show the proper place of glorying and in focusing on the Christ. He also speaks of two “crucifixions” here: The world is crucified to the child of God and the child of God is crucified unto the world. To be crucified to something means to be dead to it. So, Paul’s meaning here is to be dead or separated from the world.

In Romans 6:3-5, Paul teaches that baptism is patterned after the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Paul then explains in verse 6: “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” This is the idea in Galatians 6:14. The Christian will not now let the world and its appeals, lusts, and enticements attract him. Because Paul had experienced the new birth at baptism, he was able to say:

I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me (Gal. 2:20).

To be crucified with Christ is to turn from sin and the world and live to God. One is crucified with Christ when he is baptized. Only those who have been baptized can say that they have been crucified with Christ. By being crucified with Christ one becomes pleasing to God, so it is desirable.

However, one can turn from the truth and back into the hardening process of sin. When this happens they are said to be “crucify[ing]...the Son of God afresh” (Heb. 6:6). In order to keep this from happening we must follow the exhortation found in Colossians 3:1-2:

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

*Bruce Stulting  
Huntsville, TX*

### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

#### SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.  
Morning Worship 11.00 am.  
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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## **THE ANDREW PRINCIPLE**

You don't read much in the Bible about Andrew, but all that you do read is good. Had you seen him you may have asked, "Who's that guy over there? Oh, I know, that's Simon Peter's brother. You know, Peter..." And with that Andrew would have been forgotten, and the topic switched to the remarkable Apostle Peter.

Well, Peter did a lot? He preached on Pentecost when 3,000 responded for baptism. He took the Gospel to the Gentiles. The first half of the book of Acts is basically about his work. And, he wrote First and Second Peter. But do you know how he came to be a Christian? The Bible records that after Andrew found Jesus, "*He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone*" (John 1:41 - 42). We would all like to be like Peter, or like Paul, John, or James. We want the limelight; we want to accomplish the big, the significant, the noticeable. Nor is all this bad! But, oh, how we need Andrews standing in the wings, full of Jesus, and sharing Him with their family, friends, and even strangers.

God has no plan for the masses. World evangelism is to be accomplished by one person sharing Jesus with another. And how is it done? And what is the secret? It is accomplished when each Christian gets so full of the love of Jesus, he doesn't let a year pass without having brought another to the Lord; and the new converts doing the same. That's all it takes! What the church needs is the ANDREW PRINCIPLE!

*Author unknown*

I recently came across this short article. The author is unknown, however, it sets forth an important lesson that we all need to consider. Truly, the church needs more Andrews! May each Christian seek to imitate Andrew's great example. Who knows, maybe one that we reach with the gospel will become a great Christian and be responsible for the salvation of thousands of souls. Remember, it took an Andrew to bring Peter to the Lord. Let us seek to do all we can to bring those who are lost in the darkness of sin to the Christ.

*Ken Chumbley*

## **NEWS AND NOTES**

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron's sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter, Justine Hall's husband, Joe and Tim Smith.

A number were sick Sunday including Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver, Maomi, Natalie, Naomi and Nolan Aaron.

There will be a pot-luck meal following the morning services on March 29. Plan to stay and eat.

News and Notes will return when Ken Chumbley returns from England, please keep him and the work there in your prayers.

## **BIBLE STUDY**

Bible study is one of the most important, if not the most important things in this world. When Jesus asked the apostles if they also were going to leave Him, Peter said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). These "words of eternal life" are recorded for us in the Bible. These words are so important that they determine our eternal destiny (John 12:48). By our obedience to or disobedience to those words we will be saved or lost (2 Cor. 5:10).

The instruction to Timothy teaches us the importance of Bible study. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). To be approved of God, we must study. The only way to rightly divide God's Word, is to study. The phrase "rightly dividing" refers to properly understanding the Bible so we can explain it correctly.

Timothy's mother and grandmother recognized the importance of Bible study, thus, they taught the Scriptures to him (2 Tim. 3:15). God commanded the Israelites to have His Word in their hearts and teach it to their children at all places and times (Deu. 6:6-9; 11:18-20). Let us each make a determined effort to study God's Word to our soul's salvation.

*Michael Hatcher  
Pensacola, FL*