

“IF I MUST BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED, THEN ALL WHO HAVE NOT BEEN BAPTIZED ARE DAMNED!”

by John Isaac Edwards

When we point out, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mk. 16:16), some object, “If I must be baptized to be saved, then my grandpappy and nanna, daddy and mama, aunts and uncles, cousins and kids, together with everyone else who has not been baptized, are damned! I can’t accept that!”

1) BAPTISM IS A NECESSARY CONDITION OF SALVATION. To deny that baptism is a necessary condition of salvation is to reject plain Bible passages such as Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:3-4, 1 Corinthians 12:13, Galatians 3:27, 1 Peter 3:21, and many others. Yet, baptism is not the only condition of salvation. If one can circumvent baptism on the basis of “everyone who has not been baptized,” then, on the same basis, we can dodge every other condition of salvation! If not, why not?

2) OTHER CONDITIONS NECESSARY FOR SALVATION. The Bible teaches that...

One must hear. Jesus

taught, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”* (Jn. 5:24). Will you say, “If I must hear the word of the Lord to be saved, then everyone who has not heard will come into condemnation! I can’t accept that!”?

Faith is essential. John 3:18 states, *“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”* Will you say, “If I must believe on him to be saved, then everyone who does not believe on him is condemned! I can’t accept that!”?

Repentance is required. The Lord instructed, *“...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish”* (Lk. 13:3, 5). Paul preached that God *“...now commandeth all men every where to repent”* (Acts 17:30). Will you say, “If I must repent to be saved, then everyone who did not or will not repent, will

perish! I can’t accept that!”?

Confession is unto salvation. Romans 10:9-10 records, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* Will you say, “If I must confess Jesus to be saved, then everyone who has not confessed the Lord Jesus are lost! I can’t accept that!”?

3) OBEYING THE LORD IS AN INDIVIDUAL MATTER. Jesus declared, *“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me...”* (Mt. 10:37). The Ethiopian eunuch asked, *“...See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?”* (Acts 8:36). Saul said, *“...Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?”* (Acts 9:6). The prison-keeper uttered, *“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”* (Acts 16:30). The Philippians were exhorted, *“...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”* (Phil. 2:12).

Hearing the Lord's word, faith in Christ, repentance of sins, confessing the Lord Jesus, and being baptized are all commands to be obeyed in the law of Christ in order to obtain the forgiveness of sins. Those who press against baptism as a condition of salvation, on the basis that it condemns the unbaptized, will, on the same

basis, have to give up hearing, faith, repentance and confession as conditions of salvation. Some want to transfer matters of law to cases of clemency. Clemency belongs to the judge. If "*the Judge of all the earth*" (Gen. 18:25) extends mercy or lenience at the last day it is within His power, and outside the revealed law. The Bible

teaches that Christ is "...*the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him*" (Heb. 5:9). I am not willing to stake my soul's salvation on that which is above and beyond, over and outside the law of God. Are you?

PLUS OR MINUS?

by John Isaac Edwards

The Bible says:
"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved..." (Mk. 16:16).

"Repent, and be baptized... for the remission of sins..." (Acts 2:38).

As 1 **and** 1 means 1 **plus** 1, "*believeth and is baptized*"

means "*believeth*" **plus** "*baptized*" and "*repent and be baptized*" means "*repent*" **plus** "*baptized*."

As 1 **plus** 1 equals something (2), *believeth plus baptized* equals something (*saved*) and *repent plus baptized* equals something (*remission of sins*).

As 1 **minus** 1 equals nothing, "*believeth*" **minus** "*baptized*" equals nothing and "*repent*" **minus** "*baptized*" equals nothing!

As 1 **plus** 1 and 1 **minus** 1 do not equal the same thing, what men say does not equal what the Bible says!

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

Believeth + Baptized = Saved

Repent + Baptized = Remission of Sins

WHAT MEN SAY

Believeth - Baptized = Saved

Repentance - Baptized = Remission of Sins

THE BIBLE SAYS PLUS. MEN SAY MINUS. *WHAT DO YOU SAY?*

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

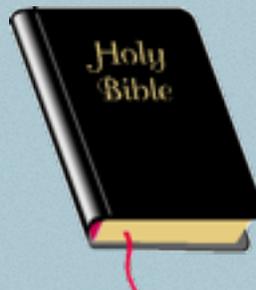
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