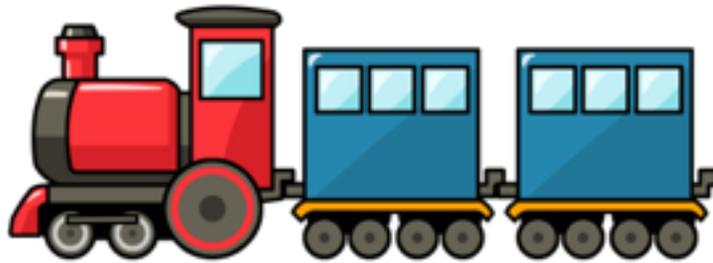


HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED

John Isaac Edwards

He shall be saved that believeth and is baptized.



Jesus said, *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...”* (Mk. 16:16).

1) **“HE.”** There is a certain individual whom the Lord said, *“...shall be saved.”* Who is *he*? Is it: He that believeth not and is not baptized; He that believeth not and is baptized; He that believeth and is not baptized; or He that believeth and is baptized. Which is it?

2) **“SHALL BE.”** These words state a blessing to be given, a promise to be received, that he does not possess. Thus, he is not in a saved state. Unless and until he meets the conditions stated, he will remain as he is.

3) **“SAVED.”** To not be saved is to be lost. *“Saved”* in Mark 16:16 is parallel to *“remission of sins”* in Luke

24:47. Romans 3:25 mentions *“the remission of sins that are past.”* Thus, *“saved”* is the blessing and promise of forgiveness of past sins. If one should insist that *“saved”* means salvation from future sins, belief and baptism would still be conditions of entrance into heaven!

4) **“THAT BELIEVETH.”** Numerous passages ascribe salvation to faith (Acts 16:31; Rom. 3:22-26; 5:1-2; Eph. 2:8). The passage does not offer salvation to him that believeth not.

5) **“AND.”** This is a conjunction that serves as a copulative to connect *“believeth”* together with *“baptized.”* It is like a coupling pin that joins two boxcars together on the railroad. As long as they are joined together, they

cannot be switched in different directions, one to the north and the other to the south. Where one car goes, the other goes. Here’s the illustration: The station is salvation. The two boxcars are *“believeth”* and *“baptized.”* The coupling pin is *“and.”* If believing is necessary, so is being baptized. If being baptized is not essential, neither is believing! *“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder”* (Mt. 19:6).

6) **“IS BAPTIZED.”** To be *“baptized”* is to be *“buried”* and *“planted”* (Rom. 6:3-5). It requires coming unto a certain water, going down into the water, and coming up out of the water (Acts 8:36-39). Peter penned, *“...baptism doth also now save us”* (1 Pet. 3:21).

Faith and baptism are essential to salvation.

ANSWERING OBJECTIONS TO MARK 16:16

John Isaac Edwards

Some objections raised to Mark 16:16 include:

1) **“IT’S LIKE RIDING TO CHICAGO.”** One said Mark 16:16 is like this: “He that getteth on the train and is seated, shall ride to Chicago.” He said, “You see, it is necessary to get on the train, but it is not necessary to be seated; one can ride to Chicago whether he is seated or not.” Thus, he that getteth on the train is substituted for “he that believeth,” is seated is put in place of “is baptized” and shall ride to Chicago is made to stand for “shall be saved.” The thinking is that all that is necessary to be saved is believing. Yet, if one is saved at the point at which he believes, without being baptized, then he would be in Chicago the instant he got on the train, before he even had time to sit down! So that idea is debunked, or should we say, derailed.

2) **“JESUS DID NOT SAY, ‘HE THAT BELIEVETH NOT AND IS NOT BAPTIZED SHALL BE DAMNED.’”** The thought is that if baptism was really necessary Jesus would have said, “*He that*

believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not and is not baptized shall be damned.” Since the Lord did not say, “he that is not baptized shall be damned,” it is assumed that only believing is necessary to being saved. The one who so objects must deal with the fact that the Lord said he shall be saved that believeth and is baptized. He has sought to put asunder what God hath joined together! To be saved, two things are necessary: believing and being baptized. To be lost only one thing is necessary — just don’t believe. John 3:18 records, “...*he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*” Consider these parallel statements:

He that eateth food and digesteth it shall live; but he that eateth not shall die. It is not necessary to say “he that eateth not and digesteth not shall die” for we all know that if one does not eat he will not digest!

He that receiveth his prescription and taketh his medicine shall be brought to

health; but he that receiveth not his prescription shall not live.

There is no need to say, “he that receiveth not his prescription and taketh not his medicine” for the reason that one who does not receive his prescription cannot take his medicine!

3) **“MARK 16:16 SHOULD NOT BE IN THE BIBLE.”** Now they resort to questioning the authenticity of the text. They wish to exclude Mark 16:16 on the basis that it is not found in some manuscripts, when it is in others. Let them answer why they will not accept this Scripture, but accept others which are not found in some manuscripts. There is nothing this text teaches that is not taught elsewhere in the New Testament. In addition to Mark 16:16, a multitude of passages attest to the fact that believing and being baptized are necessary conditions of salvation.

We affirm, “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*” Who will deny it? If you will affirm, He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved, we will deny it.

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

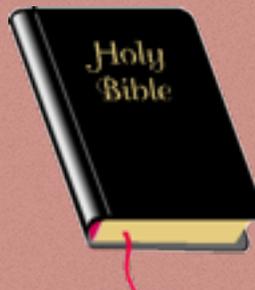
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