

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

Volume 8

March 24, 2019

Number 12

ACTS 2:38 AND TWO ADVIL

by John Isaac Edwards

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one 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).

It is argued that the word “for,” in Acts 2:38, means “because of” and not “in order to.” It has been said, “The verse might be paraphrased, ‘Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ because of (or as a result of) the remission of sins. The verse is not saying, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ in order to attain the remission of sins’” (*Commonly Misunderstood Bible Verses, Clear Explanations for the Difficult Passages*, p. 213, Ron Rhodes).

One said it is like this: You take two Advil **for** a headache. That does not mean take two Advil in order to get a headache, but because you already have a headache.

The argument backfires. In his mind “for” means because of, that one is baptized because his sins have already been forgiven. However, you do not take Advil after the headache is gone. You take Advil for the relief of a headache, to get rid

of the headache! Likewise, one repents and is baptized for the remission of sins, so his sins



can be let go! Take Advil, the pain is gone. He has the pain gone before and without taking any Advil!

Remember Acts 2:38 is in response to a question. Devout Jews were accused of crucifying Jesus, the Christ (vv. 22, 36). “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?” (v. 37). What shall we do for what, if not to be forgiven?

Whatever baptism is for, repentance is for. They are joined together by the

conjunction “and” that serves as a copulative to connect “repent” together with “be baptized.” If it is not necessary to be baptized, neither is it necessary to repent. If repentance is necessary, then so is baptism. They stand together!

If Peter told them to repent and be baptized because they had already been saved, why do we read just two verses later where “...with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves...” (v. 40)?

Verse 41 says, “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized...” If they were saved before and without being baptized: (1) They were saved before they received the word (v. 41). (2) They were saved and told again they needed to be saved (v. 40). (3) They were saved without repenting (v. 38).

Jesus shed His blood “...for the remission of sins” (Mt. 26:28). This is the same expression as in Acts 2:38. Why did Jesus shed His blood? Because sins had already been forgiven, or so sins could be forgiven? If the blood of Jesus is necessary, so is baptism. If saved without baptism, then saved without the blood!

IGNORING WARNING SIGNS

by John Isaac Edwards

A woman hiking in Yosemite National Park February 24 was killed after being struck by falling rock and ice on a trail that was closed. Authorities say the trail closure is clearly marked and there is a gate on the trail reminding visitors of the closure. They say the woman ignored the signs and went around the gate. It is a good time to remind us to pay attention to warnings.

1) NOAH WAS DIVINELY WARNED. *“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house...”* (Heb. 11:7). Would your house have been saved?

2) JEHORAM WAS WARNED BY ELISHA. *Elisha “...sent unto the king of Israel, saying, Beware that thou pass not such a place; for thither the Syrians are come down. And the king of Israel sent to the place which the man of God told him and warned him of, and saved himself there, not once nor twice”* (2 Ki. 6:9-10). Would you have been saved?

3) EZEKIEL WAS

COMMISSIONED TO WARN. It was his God-given duty to hear the Lord’s word and *“give them warning”* (Ezek. 3:17-21). The Lord said, *“...if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness...he shall die in his iniquity...”* (v. 19). Would you have turned or died?

4) WISE MEN WERE WARNED. Matthew 2 says, *“...being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way”* (Mt. 2:12). Would you have returned or departed another way?

5) JOSEPH WAS WARNED. *“...being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee”* (Mt. 2:22). What would you have done?

6) CORNELIUS WAS WARNED FROM GOD. Acts 10 records, *“Cornelius...was warned from God...to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee”* (v. 22). Would you have sent for Peter?

7) PAUL WARNED

CHRISTIANS. Paul reminded the Ephesian elders, *“...I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears”* (Acts 20:31). He wrote, *“...as my beloved sons I warn you”* (1 Cor. 4:14). His preaching included *“warning every man”* (Col. 1:27-28).

8) CHRISTIANS TAUGHT TO WARN. Paul instructed Christians in Thessalonica, *“...warn them that are unruly...”* (1 Th. 5:14).

The Lord’s word is a guidepost that warns. The Psalmist said of the judgments of the Lord, *“...by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward”* (Ps. 19:11). There are paths we are warned to keep away from (Prov. 1:15; 4:14). As dreadful as it is for one to die physically, how much more terrible for there to be loss of eternal life as a result of ignoring clearly marked warnings!

“Careless soul, O heed the warning, For your life will soon be gone; O how sad to face the judgment, Unprepared to meet thy God.”

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

Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

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