

The Church of Jesus Christ

An Obedient Church

Acts 2:38-42

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Matthew 7:21-23

“A Scary Passage!”

“Not everyone who says to me, “Lord, Lord,” will enter into the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

On that day many will say to me, “Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?”

Matthew 7:21-23

“...And then I will declare to them, “I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.”

- Jesus actually says here that people can actually believe they're saved, but in reality be lost
- The worshippers in this text, genuinely believe Jesus is their Lord and think that they are actively serving His cause
- This is why it is important to revisit your salvation
1 Corinthians 10:12, 1 Corinthians 9:27

Why did Jesus say that **MANY** who acknowledge and serve him will be lost on the day of judgment?

DISOBEDIENCE

In Jesus' words they failed to do "the will of my Father."

They were acting out of "lawlessness" (without God's laws in mind)

Obedience Has Always Been Important To God!

- In Joshua chapter 6 when Israel entered Canaan, the Promised Land, their first target was the great walled city of Jericho
- God's "unorthodox" plan of attack was for the Israelites to march around the walled city once a day for six days, then seven times on the seventh day
- Then the people were to shout as loudly as they could, and God promised that the great walls of the city would collapse as soon as they followed these orders and the city would be theirs for the taking

Question:

What if they had followed all of God's instructions, except on the seventh day, they decided to walk around the city five times rather than seven? Do you think that God would still have brought the walls down?

No!

There is nothing in the Bible that tells us that close obedience is close enough!

Another Example Is Found in 2 Kings 5

- A general of the Syrian army, Naaman, was eaten up with Leprosy, a disfiguring and incurable disease

In search of a cure, he packed his bags and headed south into Israel looking for Elisha, the prophet

Elisha sent word to Naaman that in order to be cured of his disease, he would need to “*go and wash in the Jordan river seven times, and your flesh would be restored to you and you will be clean.*” He did go and dip **seven times** as instructed and his flesh was like new

Question:

Do you think that Naaman would have been cured if he had decided that dipping himself in the Jordan River five times was just as good as the seven times that God commanded?

NO!

Naaman had to meet every condition that God attached to his promise to heal him.

These Stories Teach One Of God's Fundamental Principles

*It Is Critical To Meet Every
Condition God Attaches To A
Promise*

*We Believe That Baptism Is A
Condition That God Has Attached
To His Promise Of Salvation!*

Baptism As A Condition Is Scriptural

Acts 2:38

Then Peter said unto them, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Question: What does Peter tell the crowd to do in order to have their sins forgiven?

Answer: “Repent and be baptized” (Just let Peter’s words answer the question)

Acts 22:16

“And now why do you delay? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.”

- This is the story of Saul, soon to become the Apostle Paul’s conversion
- He is blind at this point, guilt-ridden, and asked a risen Jesus Christ what he should do.
- He was told to go into the city of Damascus and a man named Ananias meets him there, cures his blindness, and then ask him a question

Acts 22:16

Why do you delay? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name

What Ananias Doesn't Say

- 1) "Arise and be baptized because God has already washed away your sins."**
- 2) "Arise and be baptized as a public testimony to your fellow Christians that you are now one of them."**

The straightforward interpretation of this scripture links baptism with the washing away of sins

Romans 6:3-4

“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.”

Observations

Notice What Paul Does Not Say

- They died to their old life and rose to a new life “***when they asked Jesus to come into their heart***”
- They spiritually died and rose again, “***when they prayed the sinners prayer***”
- Their baptism was just a “symbol” of their spiritual death and resurrection “***which really took place at some earlier time.***”

Observations

If we let the scripture speak for itself, Paul points to baptism as the time and place where two things happen

- 1) A Person actually dies to their old sinful life
- 2) The person rises to a new redeemed life
- 3) If Baptism is the actual moment where the person dies with Christ, and is raised to walk a new life, aren't then **Baptism** and **Obedience** connected?

But Doesn't the Bible Teach We Are Saved By Faith Alone?

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

Romans 5:1

“Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Therefore Baptism can't be necessary if we are saved by faith alone!

Observations

- In the Bible however faith, by definition, is more than just a conviction *in your mind* that something is true, James 2:19
- In the Bible, Genuine faith only happens when a person does two things:
 - 1) Believes what God tells them
 - 2) Obeys the commands (action) He gives them

James 2:17 says that, ... *“faith by itself, if it does not have works (active obedience) is dead.”*

In the Bible Genuine Faith and Obedience are Linked!

- In Joshua 6, the faith that brought the walls of Jericho down included **obeying every command God had given them for the plan of battle**

Our Salvation Works the Same Way

- In Romans 5:1 the Bible says we are saved “**through faith**”
- In Acts 2:38 the Bible says “**repent and be baptized**”

How Can it Be Both?

- Genuine faith includes obedience
- The faith that saves us includes obeying every command God has put into place to save us
- Putting our faith in Christ happens when we carry out His command to “repent and be baptized”

Paul Shows How Saving Faith And Baptism Go Together

Galatians 3:26,27

*“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ
Jesus,*

*For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ
have put on Christ.”*

Question:

*What in this scripture is mentioned as a condition for
putting on Christ?*

Baptism

