

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." (2 Timothy 3:16)

Volume 46

AUGUST, 2009

Number 8

SOME THINGS THAT MAN CANNOT PROVE! (NO. 8)

As we continue our examination of some things that are often taught or preached that can not proven by the Scriptures, let us now consider the following.

9. "*Water baptism may be administered by pouring or sprinkling water upon the head of the subject.*" The 1989 Manual of the Church of the Nazarene says: "**Baptism may be administered by sprinkling, pouring or immersion, according to the choice of the applicant.**" (P. 36.)

REPLY: Although the Catholic Church and a number of Protestant Churches practice sprinkling and pouring water on the head of the subject for baptism, no one is able to prove by the Scriptures that it pleases God.

There are a number of things wrong with the idea that "sprinkling and/or pouring constitutes Scriptural baptism". Here are some of them.

1. It is assumed, asserted and practiced without any authority whatsoever to do so from God! It is based completely on the wisdom of men. Read and consider such passages as: Jer. 10:23; Isaiah 55:8-9; Psalms 94:11; 1 Cor. 1:18-20, 27-29; 3:20, etc.

2. There is no example in the

NT of sprinkling or pouring water as baptism!

3. There is no statement in the NT that such would be acceptable to God for baptism!

4. There is no command in the NT for either pouring or sprinkling for baptism!

5. There is no necessary implication that sprinkling or pouring was ever authorized or practiced as baptism with the approval of Jesus Christ!

NOTE: There is simply no authority in the NT for the practice of sprinkling or pouring and calling it water baptism!

6. Pouring or sprinkling cannot be practiced by faith! (See Heb. 11:6; Rom. 10:17; 1:17, etc)

7. Sprinkling or pouring cannot be done in the name of the Lord Jesus. (See Col. 3:17).

8. Scriptural baptism is a burial in water and a rising up out it. (See Rom. 6:4 & Col. 2:11-12). It is an immersion that requires "much water" (see John 3:23). Also see Acts 8:38-39.

No, it cannot be proven by the Scriptures that either sprinkling or pouring is Scriptural water baptism. (CRS)

THE INSTRUCTOR

(USPS # 581680)

Published monthly in the interest of truth and righteousness by the congregation of Christ, meeting at 4777 US Highway 431 S, Albertville, AL 35950.

ELDERS

Lionel Gary

Rex Henson

Mike Pack

Carrol R. Sutton

DEACONS

Gary Chumley

Jerry Tucker

Gerald White

CARROL RAY SUTTON

Editor

Website: <eastalbertvillechurchofchrist.com>

Send all questions, comments and criticisms to the Editor, 4777 US Highway 431 S, Albertville, AL 35950 or at <theinstructor@bellsouth.net> or at (256) 878-0920 or <sutton413@bellsouth.net>

Second-class postage paid in
Albertville, AL 35950.

Editorial...

SALVATION !

It is obvious to the informed person that the condition of those in sin is that they are lost! Jesus said: **"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."** (Luke 19:10) In Luke 5:32 Jesus said: **"I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."** We learn from Rom. 6:23 that **"the wages of sin is death."**

The Word of God speaks of a person being saved from past sins (i.e., having alien or past sins forgiven or remitted or blotting out) and it speaks of being saved eternally in heaven. First let us consider forgiveness of our past sins when we become a Christian.

A PRESENT SALVATION

This present salvation is the result of our being saved from our past (or alien) sins. Read the

following passages.

---2 Tim. 1:9- **"Who (God - ed) hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling..."**

--Titus 3:5- **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost."**

NOTE: In these two passages we have the word **"saved"** - in past tense. They had already been saved from their past sins!

--1 Cor. 1:18- **"For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."**

--Eph. 2:8-9- **"For by grace are ye saved through faith..."**

--Acts 2:47b- **"...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved..."** ---[The NKJV says: **"...those who were being saved."**]

--Acts 11:14- **"Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved."**

NOTE: Cornelius was to send men to Joppa and call for Peter to come to preach to him what God had commanded him to preach. Read Mark 16:15-16 and you will see what Jesus commanded the apostles to preach in all the world. No doubt, Peter preached the gospel as he had been commanded to do. It is obvious that when Cornelius and those with him heard the gospel preached, they believed and obeyed it. (Read Acts 10 & 11). Also see Rom. 1:16 & 2 Thess. 1:6-10.

NOTE: We can see from the above passages that the early Christians had a present salvation from their past sins.

FURTHER NOTE: We have this present salvation now in actuality! We have it now in possession! We have been washed in the blood of Christ and thus cleansed of our past sins! We have been saved by grace!

A FUTURE SALVATION

Carefully read the following passages.

--Romans 5:9-10- "**Much more then being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through...much more being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.**" NOTE: Twice in this passage we have the expression "**we shall be saved**" which is future tense.

--Romans 13:11- "**...for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.**" NOTE: The salvation is still future.

--2 Timothy 2:10- "**Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.**" NOTE: It seems that this salvation is in the future at the time of the writing.

--Hebrews 5:9-- "**And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.**"

--Hebrews 10:39- "**But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.**"

--1 Peter 1:9- "**Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.**"

NOTE: These verses deal with a future salvation in heaven.

We have this future salvation now in promise. John declared in 1 John 2:25 "**And this is the promise that he promised us, even eternal life.**"

We have this future salvation now in hope. Paul said: "**In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.**" We will receive this future salvation in actuality and in possession in the world to come. (See Mark 10:30).

HOW MAY WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE SALVATION?

1. Not by human traditions or commandments of men. Read carefully and meditate upon Jeremiah 10:23; Isaiah 55:8-9; Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 15:1-9; Titus 1:13-14, etc. and you clearly see that this is true. You cannot know that you have salvation by human doctrines or commandments of men!

2. Not by merely (or only) living a good moral life. God requires us to live right morally, but morality alone is not sufficient. Without question, the Scriptures are replete with passages that indicate that God requires His children to deny "**un-godliness and worldly lusts**" and to "**live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world.**" (Titus 2:11-12). Also see, read and meditate up Hebrews 12:13 1 Peter 1:16; Romans 12:2; 1 John 2:15-17; James 1:27; 2 Cor. 7:1; 2 Pet. 3:14; 1 Thess. 4:3-7; Col. 3:5-9; Eph. 5:3-7, 11; Eph. 4:21-32, etc. You cannot know that you have salvation by a good moral life alone!

Cornelius is an example of a good moral man who needed to be saved. See Acts 10; 11:14; Romans 1:16; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 2 Thess. 1:1-10, etc.

3. Not by "honesty" alone. To be saved, one must be honest (see Rom. 12:17), but "honesty" alone will not save. It did not save Saul of Tarsus. (See Acts

9:1-6; Acts 22:19-20; Acts 22:16). Neither will "honesty" alone save you! You cannot know by honesty alone that you have salvation!

4. Not by our feelings! Our feelings are no evidence of salvation, but are a result of our beliefs, whether they are true or not. Consider the fact that Jacob sincerely felt like his son Joseph was dead, but he was alive. (Read Gen. 37:33-35). He mourned and wept for his son because he believed he was dead, but he was alive. His feelings were based on his beliefs, not on the facts.

Saul of Tarsus thought he ought to persecute Jesus. He really felt like he was doing God's service, but he wasn't.

5. Not by our conscience!

The conscience is not the standard to determine whether we saved or lost. Read carefully what Saul did as recorded in Acts 9:1-6; Acts 22:19-20 & Acts 26:9-11. NOTE: Although Saul did all

those evil things he said: "...I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

6. We can know that we are saved by what is written in the Scriptures!

In 1 John 5:13 the apostle John declared: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

NOTE: We can only know that we are saved by what is written in the Scriptures! We must learn from the Scriptures what to do to please God and be saved and then we must do it! We should forget about trying to know that we are saved by following man's wisdom. We should allow God's word to produce faith in our hearts, trust God and do what He says! (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS at East Albertville Sept. 20-25 @ 7 pm with Ed Brand preaching! COME!

SENTENCE SERMONS

Be slow to speak. What you say in a hurry may end up causing you much worry.

* * * * *

The person, who is always finding fault, seldom finds anything worthwhile.

* * * * *

Along with the beautiful sunshine, there will be some shadows.

* * * * *

True love understands the language of sacrifice.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
4777 US Highway 431
Albertville, AL 35950

Periodical Postage