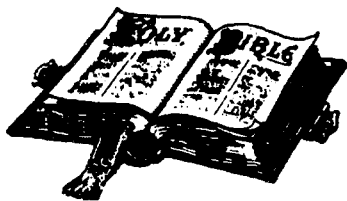


THE INSTRUCTOR



"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

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CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS (No.3)

As we continue our consideration of **CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS** let us keep in mind that each of us are responsible to God and He will hold us accountable for **what** we build and **how** we build. Not only should we build **good names** and **good solid families**, but we should also build:

3. **GOOD INFLUENCES!** Each of us will influence others - either for good or bad! As John said, **"...the whole world lieth in wickedness."** (1 John 5:19). **Wicked** people exert wicked or evil influences! **Godly** people exert good or godly influences!

God expects Christians to think, speak and act in such a way as to exert a **good** or **godly** influence upon others. In addressing disciples Jesus said: **"Ye are the salt of the earth..."** (Matthew 5:13). Salt has **preserving power**. The world needs "preserving." Christians, like salt, should have a "preserving" power. Salt has a **seasoning quality**. The world needs "seasoning." Christians, like salt, should have a "seasoning" influence upon the world.

Jesus also said to His disciples: **"Ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine be**

fore men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:14-16). People in the world are in **darkness!** They need **light!** **Jesus Christ** is the **LIGHT** of the world! (Cf. John 8:12). Christians are to reflect Christ through their attitudes, words and actions. They are to **"shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life."** (Phil. 2:14-16). In writing to the saints at Ephesus, the apostle Paul said: **"For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light."** NOTE: Since we are now Christians we should **"walk as children of light."** (Eph. 5:8). People of the world will be influenced more by our **teaching** if our **lives** reflect the **light of Christ!**

Timothy was admonished by Paul: **"...Be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."** (1 Tim. 4:12). All Christians, like Timothy, should be **good examples!** We should be **examples of believers!**

Young men are to be exhorted **"to be sober minded."** (Titus 2:6). All of us should endeavor to be **"a pattern of good works."**

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Editorial ...

BAPTISM - PROPER SUBJECTS

Many people who understand the **action** and the **purpose** (or **design**) of **baptism** do not understand **who are the proper subjects of baptism**. In this study we are to see who are the **proper subjects of baptism**.

First, let us consider the question (**who are the proper subjects of baptism?**) from a negative view point. The following are NOT proper subjects of baptism.

1. **INFANTS!** When we consider the Scriptures that show the **purpose** of baptism, we can readily see that **infants** do NOT qualify as **subjects** of Scriptural baptism! The Scriptures show that **baptism** must be **preceded** by **teaching** (Mt. 28:19), **faith** (Mk. 16:15-16; Heb. 11:6), **repentance** (Acts 2:36-41), and **confession** (Acts 36-37; Rom. 10:9-10) but **infant baptism** requires **NONE** of these. Therefore **infants** are NOT **proper** subjects of baptism!

2. **BORN AGAIN PEOPLE!** To be **born again** it is essential that a person "**be born of water and of the Spirit**" which involves **water baptism**. (See John 3:1-5) However, **baptism** has NO benefit to a person **after** he has been "**born again!**"

3. **GOD'S CHILDREN!** A person **becomes** a child of God **by faith** **WHEN** he is **baptized into Christ!** (Read Gal. 3:26-27). NOTE: There is no proof in God's Word that baptism is for children of God!

4. **SAVED PEOPLE!** Since Jesus said: "**He that believeth and IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED...**" (Mk. 16:16), it is obvious that **baptism** come **before** salvation and **not after** salvation! We also learn that Peter said: "**The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us...**" (1 Peter 3:21). NOTE: This indicates that **baptism** is **not** for **saved** people, but it is a prerequisite of salvation!

5. **PEOPLE IN CHRIST!** People in **Christ** have access unto "**all spiritual blessings...**" (Eph. 1:3). We learn from Romans 6:3 and Gal. 3:27 that people are "**baptized into Christ.**" It necessarily follows that people in **Christ** are **not** subjects of baptism!

Infants, born again people, children of God, saved people, and people in **Christ** are NOT **proper subjects of baptism!**

Let us now consider the question (**who are the proper subjects of baptism**) from a positive view point. The following ARE proper subjects of baptism.

1. **THOSE WHO ARE CAPABLE OF BEING TAUGHT THE GOSPEL!** Jesus commissioned the disciples to "**Go...and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.**" (Matthew 28:19). In John 6:45 Jesus declared: "**It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath**

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BAPTISM-PROPER SUBJECTS

learned of the Father cometh unto me." NOTE: Only those who are capable of being taught, of hearing and learning of the Father can come unto Christ. The disciples were commissioned to **BAPTIZE those who were taught!** They were **never** told to baptize **untaught people!**

2. **LOST PEOPLE!** The fact that Jesus said: **"He that believeth and is baptized SHALL BE saved..."** (Mark 16:16), shows that **lost people** are the ones who are **subjects** of baptism. If baptism **precedes** salvation (and it does according to Jesus), we must conclude that **baptism** is for people who are **lost!**

3. **PEOPLE WHO HAVE SINS!** In Acts 2 when the Jews (who had crucified Jesus and thus were guilty of sin) asked: **"What shall we do?"**, Peter told them to repent and **be baptized FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS!** (Verse 37-38). NOTE: It is obvious that these Jews had **sins** and desired **forgiveness!** Thus, these who had sins were subjects of baptism.

4. **PEOPLE WHO ARE OUT OF CHRIST!** In Rom 6:3-4 and Gal. 3:26-27 we learn that people are **"baptized into Christ."** Since this is true we must conclude that only those who are **out of Christ** are proper subjects of baptism!

5. **PEOPLE WHO ARE OUTSIDE OF THE ONE BODY, THE CHURCH!** It is by the teaching (instruction, direction) of the Holy Spirit that **we are "baptized into one body"**. We learn this from Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 12:13. We learn from Col. 1:18 and Eph. 1:22-23 that the **body** is the **church**. NOTE: Only those who desire to get into the **"one body"** are proper subjects of baptism.

6. **BELIEVERS!** In Mark 16:15-16 Jesus said: **"...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized**

shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." In this passage Jesus indicates that **belief PRECEDES baptism!** In Acts 8:35-38 when the eunuch asked: **"...What doth hinder me to be baptized?"** Philip replied: **"If thou BELIEVEST with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said: I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."** We learn from the next verse that **"he baptized him."** Philip did **not** baptize the eunuch until he became a **believer!**

A study of Acts 8:12-13 and 18:8 will also reveal the fact that **believers** are the proper subjects of baptism!

7. **PENITENT BELIEVERS!** In Athens, Greece the apostle Paul preached that God **"...now commandeth all men everywhere to REPENT."** (Acts 17:30). We learn from Acts 3:19 that **repentance** precedes the blotting out of sins! **Godly sorrow** works or brings about **repentance!** (Cf. 2 Cor. 7:10). If we do not **repent**, we will perish! (See Luke 13:3,5).

In Acts 2:38 Peter told some inquiring Jews to **"Repent, and be baptized...for the remission of sins..."** NOTE: Repentance **precedes baptism!**

8. **THOSE WHO CONFESS FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!** We learn from Romans 10:9-10 that **"...with the mouth CONFESSION is made unto salvation."** To be confessed by Jesus before the Father in heaven, **we must confess Him before men!** (See Matthew 10:32-33). If we deny Him, He will deny us!

From our study of the Scriptures it is clear that lost people must be **taught the gospel, believe it, repent of sins and confess faith in Christ** in order to be a **proper subject of baptism!**

Are we saved by baptism **only**? No! If we were saved by baptism **only**, one would **not** need to be a **penitent believer** and **confess his faith in Christ!**

(Continued from page 1)

CHRISTIANS ARE BUILDERS

Christians should be of such character, speech and actions that they will be **an influence for good** in the **community**, in **business** and **employment activities**, in the **church** and in the **home**. (Cf. Romans 12:17; Romans 14:16-19).

To be the kind of influences that the Lord desires that we be, we should have the following traits: **moral purity, honesty, trustworthiness, integrity, industry, humility, compassion and kindness**.

An influence for **good** must be built! The **Word of God** must be our **standard** as we endeavor to **build good influences!**

(CRS)

THE ORIGIN OF GOD'S CREATION

Revelation 3:14 says: **"...These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD."** (Eph. by ed.)

In this passage Jesus Christ, no doubt, is **"the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God."** Does this mean that Jesus Christ is the first person (or thing) that God created? **No, not at all!** According to THAYER'S LEXICON, p. 77, the word translated **"beginning"** in this verse means **"That by which anything begins to be, the origin, the active cause."** So Rev. 3:14 teaches us that **Jesus Christ is the origin or active cause of the creation of God!** (Also see Col. 1:16)

(CRS)

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

Those traveling the highway of humility aren't bothered with heavy traffic.

* * * * *

Work is a tranquilizer for which no prescription is needed.

* * * * *

Smiles never go up in price nor down in value.

* * * * *

You cannot escape your responsibilities by evading them!

* * * * *

It is better to refuse a request with firmness and courtesy than to make a promise you cannot keep.

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