

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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FAITH ONLY WILL NOT SAVE US!

Men are lost in sin! The wages of sin is death according to Romans 6:23. Thus lost, sinful men need a Saviour. Jesus Christ is that Saviour! (See Mt. 1:21; Luke 19:10; John 14:6; 1 Tim. 1:15; 2:3-5; 1 John 2:1-3). Although Jesus Christ is the Saviour, the Word of God teaches the following.

1. **WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE!** Paul declared to the Ephesian saints: **"For by grace are ye saved through faith: . . ."** and **"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."** (See Eph. 2:8 & Rom. 3:24). Without the grace of God sinners **cannot** be saved!

2. **WE ARE SAVED BY MERCY!** Titus 3:5 says: **"Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."** Without the mercy of God, sinners **cannot** be saved!

3. **WE ARE JUSTIFIED AND REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST!** Read and study the following passages.

Romans 5:8-9 — **"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."**

Eph. 1:7 — **"In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace."**

1 John 2:2 — **"And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."**

Without the blood of Jesus Christ, sinners could **not** be justified and redeemed!

4. **WE ARE SAVED BY FAITH!** Such passages as Heb. 11:6; John 20:30-31; 3:16; 3:36; 5:24; Rom. 5:1-2; Mk. 16:15-16 & Acts 16:30-34 clearly teach that we are saved by faith! Without faith, sinners **cannot** be saved.

However, the Word of God also teaches that **WE ARE NOT SAVED BY FAITH ONLY!** James declared: **"Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and**

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Editorial . . .

“BIBLE PREACHING, CHRIST HONORING AND GOSPEL DISPENSING”

There are many churches that claim to be **“Bible preaching, Christ honoring, and gospel dispensing”** churches. Most churches that advertise as being such are churches that **teach** a number of **false doctrines** and fail to teach the truth as revealed in the Scriptures. No doubt, all of those churches **teach some Bible truth**, do **some things Christ requires** that He might be honored and dispense **some things taught in the gospel** (the Word of Christ). Although these things should be done, this is **not sufficient**. We should **not teach any false doctrine!** (Cf. Mt. 15:7-9; Titus 1:13-14; 2 Tim. 4:2-4; Acts 20:28-30; Mt. 7:15; 2 Pet. 2:1-3; 1 John 4:1 and 2 John 9-11). We **should teach all the Bible** (when properly divided — cf. 2 Tim. 2:15), do **all things Christ says do** that He may be honored and dispense **all the truth** as revealed in the gospel. Anything **less or more is a perverted “gospel.”** (Cf. Gal. 1:6-12).

Is a church a **“Bible preaching, Christ honoring, and gospel dispensing”** church that teaches that **alien sinners are saved BEFORE and WITHOUT water baptism?** To answer this question we must appeal to the Scriptures. **What does the Word of God say?** Opinions,

traditions of men or emotions do **NOT** constitute the standard by which this question should be answered. The Scriptures will instruct us in righteousness. Please honestly consider the following facts.

1. Jesus Christ said: **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth NOT IS BAPTIZED shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”** (Mark 16:15-16). NOTE: Christ placed **belief AND baptism BEFORE salvation!** Any church that does not do the same, does **NOT honor Christ!** Neither does it **“dispense” the true gospel!** QUESTION: Is this because it is **NOT a “Bible believing church?”**

2. On Pentecost when some Jews (who were convicted of their sins) asked, **“What shall we do?”** the inspired apostle replied: **“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). NOTE: Both **repentance and BAPTISM** were placed **BEFORE remission of sins** by Peter, the **inspired apostle!** Any church that does not do the same, does **NOT honor Christ!** Neither does it **“dispense” the true gospel!** QUESTION: Is it because it is **NOT a “Bible believing church?”**

3. Saul of Tarsus, a **penitent believer**, was told to **“. . . Arise, and BE BAPTIZED, and WASH AWAY THY SINS, calling on the name of the Lord.”** (Acts 22:16). NOTE: **BAPTISM preceded** the Washing away of sins!

4. After mentioning the fact that **“. . . eight souls were saved by water,”** the apostle Peter declared: **“The like figure whereunto even BAPTISM DOTH ALSO NOW SAVE US** (Not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) **by the resurrection of Jesus Christ!”** (1 Peter

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“BIBLE PREACHING, CHRIST HONORING, AND GOSPEL DISPENSING”

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3:21). NOTE: Since “baptism doth also now save us” it is evident that sinners are NOT saved BEFORE and WITHOUT water baptism!

No, a church is NOT A “Bible preaching, Christ honoring and gospel dispensing” church that teaches alien sinners are saved BEFORE and WITHOUT water baptism!

Is a church a “Bible preaching, Christ honoring and gospel church that teaches that “Believers today can receive Holy Spirit baptism like the apostles did in Acts 2?” To answer this question we must appeal to the Scriptures. What does the Word of God say? Opinions, traditions or emotions do NOT constitute the standard by which this question should be answered. The scriptures will be our instructor in what is the truth on this question. Please consider (fairly and honestly) the following:

1. **No one was ever COMMANDED to be baptized with the Holy Spirit!** A careful study of Mt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5-8 and Acts 11:16 will bear out the fact that some of John’s generation who had or could have received John’s baptism were PROMISED Holy Spirit baptism! Jesus was the administrator of Holy Spirit baptism! NOTE: The PROMISE OF HOLY SPIRIT baptism was made ONLY to some of John’s generation! Holy Spirit baptism was NEVER promised to YOU or ME! OBSERVATION: The apostles were commanded in Acts 1:4 to “not depart from Jerusalem, but WAIT for the PROMISE of the Father, . . .” They were NOT commanded to “be baptized with the Holy Ghost!”

2. There are only TWO recorded cases of Holy Spirit baptism in the New Testament! These two cases were some Jews (the apostles) on Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2:1-4 and some Gentiles (Cornelius & company) as recorded in Acts 10:44-47 & 11:15-18. This would fulfil the demands of the expression “all flesh.” (See Joel 2:28 & Acts 2:16-18). When the Holy Spirit was “poured out” on Jewish flesh and Gentile flesh, it certainly could be said that it was poured out on “all flesh.”

3. The PURPOSE of Holy Spirit baptism upon the apostles was for the REVELATION and CONFIRMATION of truth as revealed in the New Testament! (See John 14:26; 16:13; Mk. 16:20 & Heb. 2:3-4). The PURPOSE of Holy Spirit baptism upon Cornelius & company to assure them and convince the Jews that God was granting to them (the Gentiles) repentance unto life! (See Acts 10:44-47 & 11:15-18).

4. There is ONE baptism today! Although at times there were other baptisms, by the time (about A.D. 64) Paul penned Eph. 4:5 there was “ONE baptism!” Read it! This “ONE baptism” is, not doubt, water baptism of the great commission given by Christ in Mt. 28:18-20. If Holy Spirit baptism was valid, then there would be TWO baptisms! This would mean that Paul’s statement is not true. Holy Spirit baptism had ceased by the time Paul wrote. If Holy Spirit baptism is being administered today by Jesus, then water baptism ceased ! But it didn’t!

5. After receiving Holy Spirit baptism on Pentecost the apostles were enabled to speak in different languages (tongues)! These were languages the apostles did not know prior to this. Today, NO person who claims to be baptized in the Holy Spirit can do this. The reason is obvious. People today do NOT receive Holy Spirit baptism as did the apostles in Acts 2!

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FAITH ONLY WILL NOT SAVE US

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NOT by faith only!" (James 2:24; Also see 2:14-26 & Gal. 5:6). If sinners are saved by faith ONLY then **grace, mercy and the blood of Christ** are NOT essential to their salvation! NOTE ALSO: If one can be saved by faith ONLY, then he can be saved **before** and **without** REPENTANCE, CONFESSION and BAPTISM although the Scriptures also teach that these things save us! (See Acts 17:30-31; 3:19; 2:38; Luke 13:3; Rom. 10:9-10; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 2:36-41; 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27 & 1 Peter 3:21).

The evidence is clear! The Word of God is plain! **God's Word does NOT teach that sinners are saved by faith ONLY!** Let us be content to believe and obey God's truth!
(CRS)

"BIBLE PREACHING, CHRIST HONORING, AND GOSPEL DISPENSING"

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6. NO NEED FOR HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM TODAY! We have "**all truth!**" (Cf. James 1:25; 2:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17) The message of truth has been confirmed! (Cf. Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4 & Gal. 3:15). All (both Jew & Gentile) agree that Gentiles have been **accepted of God and granted repentance unto life.** (Cf. Acts 15:7-9). NOTE: Since the **purpose** has been fulfilled, the need for it no longer exists.

It is NOT "Bible preaching, Christ honoring and gospel dispensing" to refuse to teach the truth on Holy Spirit Baptism!

NO, a church is NOT a "Bible preaching, Christ honoring and gospel dispensing" church that teaches false doctrine on water baptism and/or Holy Spirit baptism or any other subject.

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— SENTENCE SERMONS —

One slip does not make a person forever a failure anymore than one good deed makes forever a saint.

* * * * *

Those who live only for pleasure do not get real pleasure out of living.

* * * * *

Busy people are also the happiest people.

* * * * *

Righteousness is to have **no fellowship** with unrighteousness **anywhere** at **anytime** for **any reason!** (Cf. 2 Cor. 6:14)

* * * * *

Only those who are faithful in "little" things should be called on to do "big" things. (Cf. Luke 16:10).

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