

## READING THE BIBLE FIVE WAYS

### Int.

1. Aim: To show what the verse teaches by also showing what men say!
2. Text - Mk. 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
  - a. Very familiar verse
  - b. Some accuse members of the Church of Christ of only knowing this verse
  - c. Sometimes said: "All they believe is water salvation." Called "Water dogs"
3. Putting a spin on the information. Illustration of the News Headlines about Bush and the Pope.
4. This verse is read by many people who come to differing views. Notice what men say and then what God says.

### Discussion

#### I. "He that believeth and is baptized shall not be saved"

- A. This is the view of the skeptic, agnostic, atheist
  1. Skeptic = one who doubts, one who questions the fundamental doctrines of a religion
  2. Agnostic = does not believe that man can know the truth -- says that there is not enough evidence to reach a conclusion!
- B. These do not believe that man is lost and is in need of salvation.
- C. The Bible clearly teaches that we are all lost:
  1. Rom. 3:23 "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;"
  2. The Soul That sinneth

**II. "He that believeth not and is baptized shall be saved."**

- A. This is the view of any one who teaches the necessity of infant baptism.
  - 1. They believe that sin is inherited from parents - all the way back to Adam
  - 2. Calvinism = total depravity - is the doctrine
  - 3. They teach that a little baby is born with all these sins and he must be baptized.
  - 4. But infants are not capable of believing. They do not understand.
  - 5. But yet these people insist that they must be baptized.
- B. This view is that baptism alone saves. But then they do not practice baptism by immersion. It is either sprinkling or pouring a little water on the head.

**III. "He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved."**

- A. This is the opposite of the above statement and view
  - 1. This is the view of almost every religious denomination in the world.
  - 2. It is the teaching that FAITH ALONE saves.
  - 3. Quotes from some religious books
- B. Most of these people require baptism of some form, but not baptism for the scriptural reason, and not always is it immersion.

**IV. "He that believeth not and is not baptized shall be saved."**

- A. This is the view of the universalist
  - 1. They believe all souls will finally be saved
  - 2. They believe everyone will be saved regardless of what they do.
- B. They believe that salvation does not require belief or baptism.
- C. Why even practice any religion if they are true ?

## V. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Mark 16:16

A. This is the view of Jesus Christ

1. Simple - easy to understand
2. Plain -- Anyone with an honest heart can understand
3. He that eateth and digesteth his food shall be healthy, but he that eateth not shall die.
4.  $2 + 2 = 4$  -  $B + B = S$

B. Everyone who loves Jesus will accept His view for he said:

1. Belief - faith -- not just faith alone
2. Baptism - immersion - not just baptism alone
3. Saved - salvation comes with the combination of belief and baptism
4. Harmonizes with the rest of the Bible. - Acts 2
  - a. The People heard Peter
  - b. They believed - then asked what to do
  - c. Repent and Be baptized
  - d. Why? For the Remission of Sins
5. Every example of conversion - there was a preacher, the people heard, they believed and then they were baptized.
6. 1 Pet. 3:21 "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:"

## **VI. THE ERROR OF THE FIRST FOUR VIEWS**

- A. # 1 [He that believeth and is baptized shall not be saved]
1. If we don't accept the Bible as God's word then there is no discussion.
  2. The Atheist does not believe there is a God.
  3. Therefore they do not believe we are lost - because he does not believe that there is a heaven or hell. He does not believe that there is life after death.
  4. Ps. 14:1 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."
- B. # 2 [He that believeth not and is baptized shall be saved] - infant baptism
1. Faith is essential as well as repentance. Baptism alone does not save.
  2. Heb. 11:6 "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
  3. Mk. 16:16 Belief + baptism
  4. Acts 2:38 - repentance + baptism
  5. Little Babies are not in a lost condition - they are not capable of sin -
    - a. They cannot repent
    - b. They cannot believe
    - c. Therefore they do not need to be baptized.
- C. # 3 [He that believeth and is not baptized shall be saved]
1. Faith alone cannot save
  2. Jas 2:17-24 "Not by faith only"
  3. The Bible says: "Not by faith only" !! I will accept God.

D. # 4 [He that believeth not and is not baptized shall be saved]

1. Some people will be lost - 2 Thes 1:7-10
2. Men have the power of choice. If we choose not to obey then God will be faithful to His word and punish us.
3. Rev. 20:15 "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."
4. Matt. 7:13-14 - Broad way - many will follow this way -

## **VII. THE TRUTH**

- A. Belief + Baptism = Salvation
- B. Illustration:
  1. He that believeth and is baptized shall be given a new car.
  2. He that believeth and is baptized shall be given a free trip to Disney World.
  3. He that believeth and is baptized shall receive a thousand dollars.
  4. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.
- C. We can all understand the first three because they promise a certain reward to the ones who believe and are baptized. All can understand that the reward cannot be claimed unto both conditions, faith and baptism, have been met.
- D. Is number 4 any different? Can we accept what God says.

## CONCLUSION

1. Jn. 8:32 - we can learn the truth about Mk. 16:16
2. Some people will twist and pervert this verse but it will be to their own destruction -- 2 Pet. 3:16 "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."
  - a. Unlearned = ignorant
  - b. Wrest = twist, pervert
3. There is only one way that the Bible can be read correctly - Rightly dividing -- handling correctly - 2 Tim. 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
4. Then obey it - Heb. 5:8-9 "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; 9. And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;" Obey = to comply with or carry out the command, request, to be guided, controlled, or actuated by
5. Mk. 16:16 B + B = S 2 + 2 = 4

---

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - October 1, 2006  
 Evans Church of Christ  
 515 Gibbs Road  
 Evans, Ga. 30809  
 706-855-1249  
 arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com