



WEST COLUMBIA CHURCH OF CHRIST

“every disciple that is perfect shall be as his master.” Luke 6:40b

"Christ Sent Me Not To Baptize"

The above title is only part of a sentence taken from First Corinthians 1:17. The verse from which it was taken reads, "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect."

In order to get this verse in its proper connection, the context should also be considered. Beginning with verse 12, the writer says, "Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name. And I baptized also the house of Stephanus: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other. For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel."

It should be noted that not one word was said about the design of baptism, or the position it occupies in the scheme of redemption. Many assume that since Christ sent Paul not to baptize, but to preach the gospel, baptism has no part in the salvation of man. Paul usually had a traveling companion with him. Timothy, who was with him much of the time, could have done the baptizing.

It took an inspired man then to preach the gospel. There was no New Testament written then, and the people were dependent upon inspired men to preach the gospel. But anyone with the physical ability, and sense enough to lead one into the water and bury him, could do the baptizing. I know one debater who has a chart with this quotation: "Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel." He seems to think that as baptism is not mentioned in that text as a condition of salvation, it is, therefore, not essential to salvation. He does not look to any other place to find anything on the subject of salvation. According to his thinking, it is not mentioned there and, therefore, is no part of salvation. Strange reasoning, it appears to me.

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“The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us” - 1 Peter 3:21

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!

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THE BULLETIN—VOLUME 41, NUMBER 20 May 17, 2015

SERMONS THIS SUNDAY:

AM: T.J. Bolen—What about those who have never heard the gospel?

PM: T.J. Bolen—The Sword of the Spirit, Ephesians 6:17

“Wherefore ..., let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” - Hebrews 12:1

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SERVICES

Sunday 10 AM Bible Study
Sunday 11 AM, 6 PM Assembly
Wednesday 7 PM Bible Study
Office Phone (803) 794-5320
Nursery provided
Bible Classes for all ages
Informal Bible Study
Everyone Welcome!
Bring your Bible questions
Saturdays 3 pm

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“PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER” - James 5:16

REMEMBER IN PRAYER: *Margaret Herring, Stephanie Rigney, Dorothy Gray and family, Pat Joyner, Gwen Pittman, Anna Porter, also Richard Ramkinson, Wilson Burton.*

- **Jan Kelleher** has had a recurrence of cancer.
- **Tommy White** is at home now, but still recovering from bypass surgery
- Remember these and: **Anna Porter; Gwen Pittman; the Brisbons in NY ; Grant Parks** and family; **Debbie Sheppard; Eileen Lester.**
- **Pray for all these**, send them a card, show them you love them.
- **Be thankful that God hears our prayers and answers!** (1 John 5:15)

"For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." - Hebrews 12:3

“AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY” - Acts 2:42

- **Singing!** Windsor Lake, Sunday May 17th 2-4 pm
- **Gospel Meeting!** Clinton, May 17-20 7pm.
- **Baby Shower!** For **Dorothy Gray**, Friday May 29 6:30 pm.
- **Pantry Items** needed, see **Marshall Mancuso.**
- **Activity Fund** donations needed to help some of our youth attend camp.
- **Bible study, Saturdays, 3pm, informal, bring friends and your Bible questions.**

"Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." - Hebrews 12:2

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A Matter Of Bible Authority

My objection to mechanical instruments in worship is not out of bitterness toward them; not because I think there is harm in the instrument, per se, but the objection is simply this: I have adopted the principle and pledged myself to the platform of not going beyond that which the Bible authorizes.

My digressive brother asks me, "Where does the Bible prohibit it?" I answer, "Where does the Bible authorize it?" Christians walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7). No man can use mechanical instruments and walk by faith.

By searching the scriptures you will find that God does not authorize it, does not command it, does not demand it, and that there is no example in all apostolic history for such a practice. The man who is faithful and loyal to God's word will not go beyond it. **"Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God"** (2 John 9 ASV).

- **N. B. Hardeman**, 1874-1965, Gospel Preacher

“For we walk by faith, not by sight:” - 2 Corinthians 5:7

"Christ Sent Me Not To Baptize" — (Continued from page 1)

Jesus, the Lord, spoke to Paul on the road to Damascus and said, **"But rise and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee; delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom I now send thee, to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me"** (Acts 26:16-18).

The Lord did call Paul to preach the gospel, but in preaching the gospel, which is the good news of salvation, he preached what man should do to be saved, for this salvation was conditional. Peter also — on the first Pentecost after the ascension of Christ — preached the gospel, and when the people were convicted of sin the record says, **"Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, 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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call"** (Acts 2:37-39).

The Gentile world was embraced in this call, but only those who accept the conditions are embraced in the promise. But some may say that Peter did not mention faith. No, but he did mention that which is equivalent to faith. In verse 36, he said, **"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."** They could have known this only by faith, by believing it with all their hearts. Peter, therefore, preached faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins. These are what an alien sinner should do in order to be saved from past sins.

In Romans 6, beginning with verse 3, the apostle said, **"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?"** Of course, this means into the benefits of His death. Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins (Heb. 9:22). It is only through the blood of Christ that sins can be forgiven. The death of Christ is, therefore, the procuring cause of salvation.

But when and how can sinners reach the benefits of His blood? The apostle continues, **"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."**

Notice that the new life begins at the resurrection from the grave of a burial in baptism. Christ died for our sins. Man should die to sin. Christ was raised from the grave. We too are raised from the grave of baptism. Why will men attempt to destroy the picture of salvation from sin to save a thing that is not taught in the New Testament?

- **F. B. Srygley**, 1859-1940, Gospel Preacher

Wake up! Strengthen the things that remain!