

Spirit on Pentecost agrees with this; for when he charged the Jews with crucifying Christ (Acts 2:36) they asked, “*what shall we do?*” Peter replied, “*repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 2:38).

Baptism is necessary *and* it is immersion for a person must be born from the water even as he is born from his mother in the physical birth. A burial in water is required prior to being born from it. Jesus was baptized *in* the Jordan, demonstrating that it is a burial (Mark 1:9-10).

Thus it is written of those who are born again, “*buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should also walk in newness of life*” (Romans 6:4). This statement further makes it is clear that baptism is a burial *and* a coming forth as Jesus came forth or was born from the dead (Colossians 1:18; cf., Revelation 1:5).

Being raised out of the waters of baptism is the first resurrection spoken of in Revelation 20:6. For Christians are told, you have been “*buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised with Him through faith in the working of God...*” (Colossians 2:12). Paul by the Spirit said of himself and the Ephesians saints God, “*raised us (from being dead in trespasses and sins) up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 2:4-6).

Sprinkling as baptism stems from human doctrine, which was fostered on believers long after the close of the New Testament of Jesus and the death of the last apostle (c. AD 98). Jesus said of such human traditions as sprinkling, “*In vain they worship me teaching as doctrines the commandments of men*” (Matt.

1 5 : 9) . o

The new birth is for those who have grown to the age of accountability. For most this is *between* ages of ten and fourteen. Different children react differently. God’s word tells us, “*the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth*” (Genesis 8:21), *not* from conception or babyhood. Babies and little children do not need baptism for they are safe. Jesus taught that they are like those in the kingdom (Matthew 18:3; 19:14; Mark 10:14; Luke 18:16; cf., Ezekiel 18:1-3, 18-19). However, *you* as person of understanding need to be born of water and the Spirit, for without such, as Jesus said, you “*cannot enter the kingdom of God*” (J o h n 3 : 5) .

God requires concerning faith and doctrine that we, “*speak as the oracles of God*” (1 Peter 4:11), and Jesus promised greater plagues on those who would add to or take from His word (Rev. 22:18-19). Paul wrote to some Christians, who had been bewitched into accepting an adulterated gospel, “*I marvel that you are so soon turning away from Him who called you in the grace of Christ to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some that trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel to you, let him be accursed*” (Gal. 1:6-8). o

Shortly after the church of Christ, which is Jesus’ Kingdom on this earth (Mark 9:1; Colossians 1:13) was founded in Jerusalem on Pentecost (AD 30), Philip preached in Samaria, “*the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (and) both men and women were baptized;*” no babies or little children were baptized (Acts 8:12). Sprinkling or what is called christening and infant baptism are human traditions and have been fostered on the world by the com-

mandments of men, i.e., the clergy. Jesus said of those, who bound their traditions, “*all to well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your traditions*” (Mark 7:9). o

Jesus also said, “*seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (material needs) shall be added to you*” (Matthew 6:33). He also said, “*What is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*” (Matthew 16: 26).

A person cannot be saved except by the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8-9). And a person’s salvation takes place when he willing (Isaiah 1:18; Revelation 2:17) accepts that gift of grace as bestowed by God in Christ Jesus (Hebrews 2:9) *on God’s* terms. Our Master Himself said, “*Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven*” (Matthew 7:21). Thus I urge you to truly seek the new birth as His word describes it. If you have an interest in these matters visit or phone us at the

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“*Heaven and earth will pass away, but My word will by no means pass away. But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven*” (Matt. 24:36). Later Peter wrote by inspiration, “*the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Since all these thing will be dissolved what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness*” (2 Peter 3:10-11).

Such a life of “holy conduct and godliness” begins with a person’s new birth. For Jesus also said, “*most assuredly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God*” and again He said, “*unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God*” (John 3:3,5). Being born again means hearing the words of the Holy Spirit as they are found in the scriptures for we are “*born again... through the word of God...the gospel*” (1 Peter 1:23, 25; cf., Mark 16:15-16) and from the water of baptism (Rom. 6:3-4).

Concerning the need to hear the word the Lord Jesus said, “*they shall all be taught of God*” (John 6:45), and the Spirit said, “*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*” (Rom. 10:17). He also said, “*without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*” (Heb. 11:6). As one grows in heart and mind toward being born again he or she must repent of sins in his or her life for Jesus

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said, *“unless you repent you will likewise perish”* (Luke 13:3).

Sin is very real and very evil, for it is disobedience toward the one true and living God who created us. It is not something that we inherit from our parents, for it is written, *“all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”* (Romans 3:23). Sin is something one does; it is not an entity that one can inherit. We are not born astray from God, but in the time of our youth (Genesis 8:21) we go astray, even as Isaiah wrote, *“all we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all”* (Isaiah 53:6).

At times Psalm 51:5 is quoted in an effort to prove that babies are born with sin, inherited from Adam, but when this verse is properly translated (See the American Standard, the King James and the New King James) the sin is laid at the feet of David’s mother, not him. Some translators, however, have shown their Calvinistic bias against the purity of babies and little children (Check the New International). How on earth do the clergy have the nerve to tell mothers that new born babies are sinful like the devil? Tiny babies come to this world pure as the drifted snow, even as *“the offspring of God”* (Acts 17:29).

Jesus did not believe the foolishness that babies and little children have sin for He said to those who were sinners, *“Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven”* (Matthew 18:3). Twenty seven hundred years ago God told the ancient Israelites, *“the son shall not bear the guilt of the father”* (Ezekiel 18:20), yet modern day clergymen are still deceiving mothers into believing that their tiny infants are polluted with sin.

Such clerics claim they must christen the little ones to remove sin; not only so, but have the audacity to charge a fee for it.

Theirs is an ungodly system, because, 1) babies do not have sin, 2) christening is not baptism and 3) parents or friends are made to pay for such. Jesus drove the merchandisers out of the temple saying, *“It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of thieves”* (Matthew 21:13).

Here are some examples of sins that will keep us out of heaven if we do not repent, *“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators (sexually immoral), nor idolaters (those who bow down to images – see Exodus 20:3-5), nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God”* (1 Cor. 6:9-10).

Concerning the evils of adultery and fornication God’s word is not ambiguous for it says, *“marriage is honorable among all and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge”* (Hebrews 13:4). As this scripture tells us the bed of marriage is pure and right, but when such is practiced before marriage it is fornication and outside of ones own marriage it is adultery. Pornographic things, whether in books, videos, on the internet, dirty stories or filthy words, produce lewd and lustful thoughts in the heart and mind; thereby corrupting the soul and filling it with sin. For we read, *“for out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies”* (Matthew 15:19). Fornication leads to AIDS, genital herpes and other forms of sexually transmitted diseases. Also things which are practiced because of greed or covetousness in the heart, like extortion, bribery, gambling (e.g., the lottery, poker,

slots, roulette, sports’ betting pools, etc.) must be repented of; because, *“covetousness...is idolatry”* (Colossians 3:5). Also we are told, *“put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth”* (Colossians 3:8). Filthy talk, cursing and dirty stories are a plague on society and gross sin against the eternal God, who expects us to be pure in heart (Matthew 5:8; Cf., Psalm 19:14).

As noted, Jesus said, *“repent”* or *“perish”* (Luke 13:3); yet you should also know that, *“the Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance”* (2 Peter 3:9). This is true because He loves all people, even as it is written, *“for God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16).

Yet, there is a problem, a very serious problem, and as noted it is sin. For sin in our lives is like an eclipse of the soul. Note what the prophet said, *“behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear, but your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear”* (Isaiah 59:1-2). When we refuse to obey the word of Lord even our prayers become unacceptable, for it is written, *“one who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination”* (Proverbs 28:9). Again we read, *“For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil”* (1 Peter 3:12). o

Our minds and our lives can be cleansed from guilt and iniquity through the precious blood of Jesus (I Peter 1:18-19), but in order for such to

take place we must, *“repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance”* (Acts 26:20); for it is written, *“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon”* (Isaiah 55:7). o

A person cannot be saved by simply confessing Christ and praying that He will come into his or her heart; but the Spirit does require that one confess Jesus as the Son of God, *“for with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation”* (Romans 10:10). We must confess publicly that we believe that Jesus is *“the Christ, the Son of God”* (John 11:27; Acts 8:37).

In believing, repenting and confessing the name of Jesus we are obeying the gospel (See 2 Thessalonians 1:8-10); because obedience to God is necessary even as it is written of the Savior concerning His sojourn on earth, *“though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him”* (Hebrews 5:8-9). o

When a person has developed in spiritual understanding to the point of believing, repenting and confessing Jesus as God’s Son he is ready to be born of water. Even as the great persecutor, Saul of Tarsus, was told to do after he demonstrated his repentance, *“Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16).

Some who love the doctrine of John Calvin (a 16th Century Protestant reformer) more than they love God deceive the hearts of men and women saying that baptism is not essential (not necessary) to salvation, but Jesus Himself said, *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved ...”* (Mark 16:16). Peter’s order by the