

Anchor Of The Soul
P.O. Box 401
Spruce Pine, NC 28777

Anchor Of The Soul

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July 2008

Dad & Mom Didn't Believe This Way!

By Foy E. Wallace, Jr.

A man said to me, "brother, I can't take the doctrine you preach that one must be baptized to be saved, because it damns my father and mother who were not baptized."

Well, let's see, do you think one must believe in Jesus Christ to be saved? "Oh, yes," he answers. Very well, I will just change my subject from baptism to faith. A Jew comes around and says, "Mr. Preacher, I can't accept the doctrine you preach, that faith in Jesus is necessary to salvation, because my father and mother died without believing in Christ." The Jew thinks as much of his father as you do of yours. By the same argument with which you eliminate baptism, because perchance it damns some of your ancestors, he also eliminates faith in Christ.

Then I preach that the knowledge of God is necessary to salvation, and a Chinaman comes around, and says, "I can't take the doctrine you preach, because it damns my poor father and mother, who died without the knowledge of God" -- and there you see the whole plan of salvation is nullified by contingencies.

Friend, I suggest that we leave the matter of clemency to the Judge (a judge only has the power of clemency) and let us observe the law. I have no authority to preach clemency -- I must preach what God commands men to do to be saved -- and I know what the law says.

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My Study With a Jehovah's Witness

By Casey Head

Early in the month of June, I had a Bible study with a Jehovah's Witness. We had agreed to study once a week every week, and we had been doing so for several months. I liked the guy. We got along extremely well, and I always looked forward to our studies.

For a while, it really seemed as if our studies were going well. We looked at the subject of baptism, and he seemed to make some concessions. Then we examined the deity of Christ (as Jehovah's Witnesses deny that Jesus Christ is God). He stubbornly maintained his position despite my efforts to persuade him otherwise. At that point, I really started to question his honesty, but I thought to myself, "Maybe it will just take some time for him to accept the truth."

Then we started a new series of studies on the Watchtower organization itself (the governing body of the Jehovah's Witnesses). For an entire week, I prepared the study. I gathered quotes from Watchtower publications, collected rare photocopies of old Watchtower pages, and wrote some additional studies. Then I assembled it all in a glossy white binder and waited for Tuesday to come. I was excited.

We met at our usual time. I opened my binder and we began to examine the material. We looked at the question, "Is the Watchtower Society a prophet of God?" I first of all showed that the Watchtower Society claims to be a prophet and claims that God Himself is the editor of their publications. Then I turned to the 1914 prophecy. In the 1908 edition of "The Time is at Hand," on pages 98-99, it is stated, "True, it is expecting great things to claim, as we do, that within the coming twenty-six years all present governments will be overthrown and dissolved..."

I then asked the Jehovah's Witness, "Did this come to pass? Were the governments of this world overthrown by 1934?" Of course, the Witness grew nervous and attempted to evade the question, but ultimately he had to acknowledge that it didn't happen. Then I asked him another question, "But isn't Jehovah God suppose to be the editor of the Watchtower publications?" I continued, "Either God Himself got it wrong or the Watchtower Society is a false prophet!"

Do you know how he responded? He closed his Bible and said, "There's no point in going any further." I knew right then that I had hit him hard. He didn't have an answer. And that was only the first of many prophetic statements that I wanted to examine in that study. Of course, his excuse for ending the studies was that *I* was unwilling to listen to the truth. I thought that sounded backwards.

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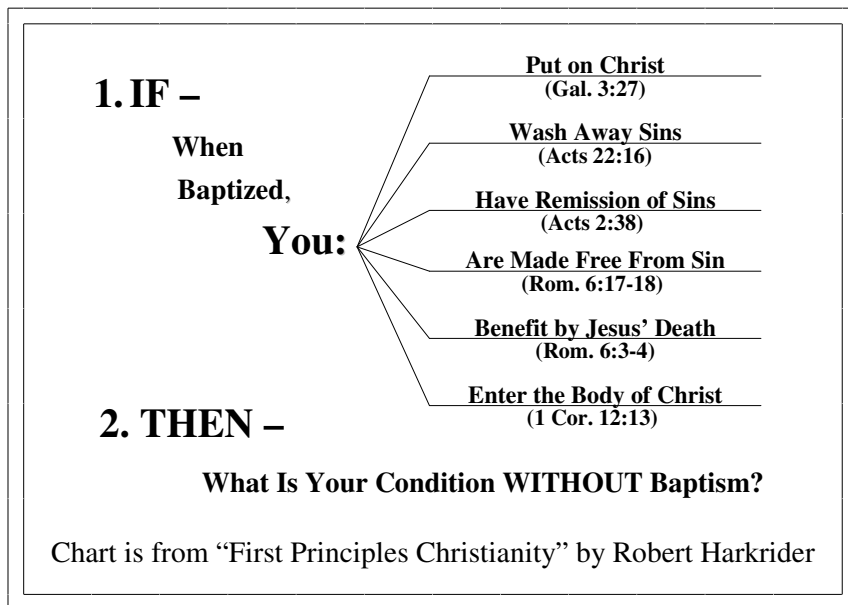
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Benefits of Baptism

By Andy Mitchell



- **Put On Christ:** “For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Gal. 3:27)
- **Wash Away Sins:** “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Ac. 22:16)
- **Remission of Sins:** “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.” (Ac. 2:38)
- **Made Free From Sin:** “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” (Rom. 6:17-18)
- **Benefit by Jesus' Death:** “Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 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.” (Rom. 6:3-4)
- **Enter the Body of Christ:** “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Cor. 12:13)

I pressed the Witness on the 1914 prophecy and told him that I knew why he didn't want to study anymore...and it wasn't because of my close-mindedness or my unwillingness to listen. Then, I told him that I loved his soul very much but perceived him to be dishonest. I asked him if he was willing to end our Bible studies and continue in the Watchtower organization despite the fact that I had proven them to be a false prophet. I told him that if he ended the studies, he would look up in hell one day and wish he had accepted the truth when I had presented it to him, that he hadn't been so stubborn and dishonest. I asked him if he was willing to gamble his soul on the hopeful whim that maybe it wouldn't matter in the end?

And do you know what he said? He said “If I'm wrong, I'm wrong, but I'm not going to change.” I asked him if he was willing to spend eternity in hell for the sake of the corrupt Watchtower Society, and he basically said, “So be it.”

At that point in the study, I was floored. I mean, I didn't expect him to just concede every point without a fight, but I never could have anticipated such a cold, uncaring, nonchalant attitude about eternal damnation. Despite the clear evidence I presented, he was unwilling to change, and he was willing to go to hell for it.

I remember tears coming to my eyes as I told him that we should be willing to forsake all for truth...that if we missed heaven we missed it all...that we could stubbornly hold onto our false doctrines, our perverse ideologies, our worldly ways and have a lot of fun in this life, but that one day we all will have to “appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body...whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:10). But he didn't seem to care.

We talked for a few minutes longer, and I watched as the Jehovah's Witness walked out into the rain and drove away. I may never see that man again. I sure wish that things had gone differently and that he had embraced the gospel of Christ. But at least he heard it.

Reader, don't be like that Jehovah's Witness. “Oh, I would never have that attitude,” you might say to yourself. But that attitude is not limited to those “cultish JW's.” I have heard Baptists say, “I was born a Baptist and I'll die a Baptist.” I've had numerous Bible studies with denominational folks who, believe it or not, have displayed the very same attitude that the Jehovah's Witness displayed on that stormy June afternoon. I've seen people reject the truth because it doesn't suit their fancy. Please, I beg you, be willing to forsake all for truth, because one day, when you're standing before God on that day of judgment, you're going to wish you had.

“Oh, Boy! It is Allowed!”

By Bill Hall

How many times have new converts received sound instructions concerning the life of a Christian, only to have the instructions nullified by the example of older members? A brother in Canada recently told me of his first trip south after his conversion. Struggling to overcome his tobacco habit—because he had been taught that he ought to do so—he watched with delight as the men of the "down south" congregations went out between Bible study and worship to enjoy their cigarettes. "O boy!" was his immediate reaction. "It's allowed!"

The same thing happens in other areas of teaching. "Attend every service" new converts are told, and sound reasons are given to back such instructions. But, Brother Smith only attends the 11 o'clock service and he is accepted as a faithful member. "One service a week must be sufficient," they say to themselves. "O boy! It's allowed!"

"Study your Bible daily and prepare beforehand for every Bible class," they are wisely told. But, they see little evidence of Bible study on the part of others and some of the comments in Bible classes definitely betray a lack of preparation. Ignorance of God's word must not be too bad," they conclude. "O boy! It's allowed!"

"Modesty of dress is essential for Christians," they hear repeatedly. But, then they hear of mixed swimming among the members and see Sister Jones wearing the tightest pants in town. "O boy!" they think; "It's allowed!"

Older Christians ought to be constantly aware that they are being watched, watched by newer converts who are looking to them for examples. Part of the teaching those new converts are receiving is coming from the pulpit; the other part is coming from the lives of the other Christians around them. What are they seeing? What are they learning? How sobering to think that some new convert might have been discouraged and led astray by something he saw in my life! Let each live in every aspect of his life so as to be able to say, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1).

Newer converts, though, must learn that God's word is the standard of authority, not the conduct of other Christians. Loyalty in a kingdom is determined by loyalty to the king rather than to the subjects of the king. It is to Him that one pledges his allegiance when he becomes a Christian, and he must be faithful to Him whatever others around him may do or fail to do. **(found in the 5-17-08 Old Hickory Bulletin, Jackson, TN; edited to fit this page**

"Anchor Of The Soul" is distributed monthly by the **Spruce Pine church of Christ**. We are a non-denominational church whose only goal is to follow the New Testament pattern.

Meeting Times

Sunday

Bible Class.....10:00 AM

Morning Worship.....11:00 AM

Evening Worship.....6:30 PM

Wednesday

Bible Class.....7:00 PM

Directions

Our building is located at 36 McHone Rd just behind the Mitchell Veterinary Clinic in Spruce Pine. Call (828)467-1463 if you need a ride to services or have any questions about the church.

Ten Reasons to Assemble With Us...

1. Our sermons are completely Bible based.
2. Our classes are informative and uplifting.
3. We have Bible classes for all ages.
4. Our worship is in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24).
5. Our worship is meant to glorify God, not man.
6. We make all of our visitors feel welcome.
7. We are truly a spiritual "family."
8. We will do everything we can to help you grow closer to God (as we do the same for one another).
9. There are people of all age-groups, including many young families with children. You won't feel out of place.
10. We are not "just another denominational church." We have many things to offer that no church in the immediate area is currently offering.

Bible Trivia

Which Psalm...:

1. Is often called the “Shepherd’s Psalm?”
2. Is the longest psalm in the book of Psalms?
3. Says “Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee?”
4. Says that “children are an heritage of the Lord?”
5. Was written by David after he had gone in to Bathsheba?

True or False:

6. If we really love our children, we won’t spank them.
7. God doesn’t care how we dress. We can wear whatever we want.

Challenge Question:

8. Can earth be destroyed by man? Must we protect the environment?

Evidence of Intelligent Design:

Lunar origin is another major problem for “Big Bang Theorists.” The earth could not have survived without the moon, but how did the moon arrive at its current destination so calmly and perfectly?

Answers:

1. Psalm 23; 2. Psalm 119; 3. Psalm 2; 4. Psalm 127; 5. Psalm 51; 6. False (Prov. 13:24); 7. False (1 Tim. 2:9-10)

Challenge Question ANSWER From June 2008:

Romans 9:13 says, “Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.” What does this mean? Calvinists often misuse this verse to teach that God has predestined some to be saved and others to be lost, but that is not Paul’s point in this verse. In fact, he isn’t talking about individual salvation at all, but rather nations. Genesis 25:23 says regarding Jacob and Esau in Rebekah’s womb, “Two nations are in thy womb.” And that fits perfectly with the context of Romans 9 as Paul is discussing the nation of Israel versus the Gentiles (all other nations). God chose the nation of Israel in the Old Testament over the nation that descended from Esau. He loved Jacob and hated Esau in the sense that Jacob’s line brought about the chosen nation of Israel. Furthermore, Luke 14:26 says that in order to come to God, we must hate our father and mother. The point is not that we must literally hate our parents, but that we must prefer God above even our own parents. That’s the point in Rom. 9 as well!

“Once Saved, Always Saved” -- A Proof-Text Examined

By Byron Smith

Solomon wrote, “The first one to plead his cause **seems right, until** his neighbor comes and **examines** him” (Prov. 18:17). We could apply the principle of this proverb to any error or false doctrine that is taught by man. Initially, the error may “seem right” to those who are ignorant of the truth, but when preconceived ideas are laid aside and error is examined in light of the truth that error becomes known for what it really is. So it is with those who would teach the erroneous doctrine of “once saved, always saved.” They confidently affirm the impossibility of a saved person losing their salvation as they make their appeal to various “proof-texts” to support their claim. Again, the error may “seem right” to those ignorant of the truth, but when examined the truth shines forth and the ugliness of error is revealed.

Those who espouse the “once saved, always saved” doctrine commonly appeal to John 10:28 as proof. The text reads, “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.” Does this passage teach that there is nothing that one can do to lose salvation? Even a casual consideration of the context shows that such was not the intent of these words spoken by Jesus. Please consider the fact that Jesus was speaking of “sheep” (disciples) who “believe” in Him (vv. 26), hear His voice (vv. 3, 27), and are following Him (vv. 4, 27). Certainly, a person who **continues** to believe in Jesus, **continues** to hear His voice, and **continues** to follow Him will remain saved and “never perish,” and no one, not even the devil himself will be able to “snatch” them out of Jesus’ hand. But what about the person who wavers in their faith or perhaps abandons their faith altogether? This can be done (1 Tim. 1:19-20; 4:1; 5:8; cf. Ezek. 18:24)! What about the person who no longer hears the voice of Jesus for one reason or another? What about so many who once followed Jesus, but have now ceased doing so? This likewise can be done (Jn. 6:66; 2 Tim. 4:10)! Will they lose their salvation? Even with an ounce of Bible knowledge one can see that such persons stand condemned in their relationship with God.

While much more could be said in refutation of this seriously flawed theory, suffice it to say that one must “**continue** with the Lord” (Ac. 11:23), “**continue** in the grace of God” (Ac. 13:43), “**continue** in the faith” (Ac. 14:22), and “**Be faithful until death**” in order to receive the crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

Do you have any questions about any of the following Bible subjects? Circle any that may apply...

The plan of salvation

Are babies born in sin?

The free-will of man

Miracles

The infallibility of God's word

Moral issues (drinking, etc.)

The deity of Christ/Godhead

The book of Revelation

Jesus' final return

The New Testament church

Raising children

Other:

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“What You Want Me To Be?”

Probably most people think of being some great thing in some high place. But maybe God desires rather that we be a lowly servant in some quiet place. That requires grace too. A king went into his garden and found to his amazement wilted and dying trees and shrubs and flowers on every hand. Asking the oak the cause of its withering away he was told that it was dying because it could not be tall like the pine. Turning to the pine he found it drooping because it was unable to bear grapes like the vine. And the vine was dying because it could not blossom like the rose. To his surprise he found the hearts ease blooming fresh as ever. Upon inquiry as to why it was not dying as were the other things around it he received this reply: “I took it for granted that when you planted me you wanted hearts ease. If you had desired an oak or a vine or a rose you would have planted such. So I thought since you put me here I should do the best I can to be what you want. I can be nothing but what I am, but I am trying to be that to the best of my ability.” The story goes that the king was greatly pleased.

-Presbyterian Advocate

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Lightning Lesson

Revelation 20 is the foundation for the doctrine of Premillennialism. Denominational scholars and theologians use this passage to teach that Jesus Christ will reign on earth for 1,000 years following the seven-year period of tribulation and the great battle of Armageddon. The passage says that “the dragon...which is the Devil, and Satan...(would be) bound for a thousand years.” Then, in verse 4, John goes on to say, “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God...and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Now, I want you to notice something about this passage: it doesn't say anything about Jesus reigning from Jerusalem over a renovated earth, yet that is exactly what people conclude from this passage. It is also interesting to note that while denominational folks want to take the millennial reign in the latter part of verse 4 literally, they do not want to interpret the first part literally which says that the citizens of the kingdom were those saints which had been “beheaded.” The fact is, this passage, along with the rest of Revelation is symbolic (1:1). Furthermore, the kingdom was already in existence in the first century (1:9). Premillennialism falls yet again!