

SIMPLE, PART TWO

Isaiah 35:8 And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.

The gospel message is SIMPLE! Getting saved is SIMPLE!

1 John 5:6-8 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

THE BOOK OF ACTS IS THE “HINGE” OF THE NEW TESTAMENT.
It tells us what the church DID with what Jesus SAID.

Ephesians 2:19-20 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Matthew 16:18-19 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Since Peter had the KEYS, what he preached is of critical importance!

Paul said that the gospel has THREE ELEMENTS ...

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ **died** for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was **buried**, and that he **rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:

Therefore, the ORIGINAL ALTAR CALL of the New Testament Church contains ALL THREE ELEMENTS of salvation (blood, water, Spirit) ...

Acts 2:38 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**.

REPENTANCE is a “**turning around**” or an “**about face**” – an inward change of **attitude** leading to an outward change of **action**.

BAPTISM IS THE SECOND STEP IN GOD’S SALVATION PLAN.

Two things are of critical importance in baptism

- the MODE (what is done)
- the FORMULA (what is said)

Acts 19:3-5 (KJV) And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Mark 16:15-16 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

THERE ARE NO DELAYED BAPTISMS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT!

- **Acts 2:41** – “the same day”
- **Acts 16:33** – “the same hour”
- **Acts 9:18** – “immediately”
- **Acts 10:48** – “he commanded them to be baptized”
- **Acts 22:16** – “why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”

Matthew 28:18-19 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

- The name of the Father – John 5:43
- The name of the Son – Matthew 1:21
- The name of the Holy Ghost – John 14:26

WATER BAPTISM IN THE BOOK OF ACTS:

- Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:38-41 – “name of Jesus Christ”
- Samaritan Believers – Acts 8:16 – “name of the Lord Jesus”
- Cornelius’ Household – Acts 10:48 – “name of the Lord”
- Disciples of John – Acts 19:5 – “name of the Lord Jesus”

Matthew didn’t write his gospel until AD 62 – he is making a theological statement about the Oneness of God that has been confirmed by thirty years of the church baptizing every convert in the name of Jesus Christ!

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM BAPTIZED?

I publicly commit myself to Christ and His church

Acts 2:41-42 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

My sins are washed away or “remitted”

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Acts 2:38 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.

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

My conscience is cleansed from past guilt

1 Peter 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:

I take on myself the only saving name, Jesus Christ

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

I apply the burial of Christ to my life

Romans 6:3-4 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.

Colossians 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism”

I am legally brought into God’s covenant

Colossians 2:11-12 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

I am “born of the water” to portray my new life

John 3:3, 5 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God ... Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

ONCE ISRAEL CROSSED THE RED SEA, PHARAOH AND THE ARMIES OF EGYPT COULDN'T GET THROUGH THE WATER!

- **The devil cannot LEGALLY bring up your past.**
- **God declares that He has FORGOTTEN your past.**
- **Only YOU can choose to go back to your past!**