

## The Church Of Christ Part II

\*\* This week we will cover two of the bedrock verses the Church of Christ use in an attempt to solidify their argument that a person must be baptized with water in order to go to Heaven

The first is Acts 2:38....

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.

\* We will show this is the Jewish Baptism as a nation

\* Gentile baptism is recorded in Acts 10 and the Holy Ghost is received before baptism...The same progression is recorded in Acts 18:8

\* Baptism is an external act not an internal one....Only the blood of Jesus can cleanse a man on the inside...

1Jo 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

1Pe 1:18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers;

1Pe 1:19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

\*\* In Mark 1:8 we see John's baptism

**Mar 1:8** I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

(Even John said that the baptism coming wouldn't be of water but of the Holy Ghost)

\*\* Notice in Acts 19:3-5 that those that had received John's baptism were baptized again...This means that the water did nothing to save anyone...

Act 19:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Act 19:4 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.

Act 19:5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

\*\* Another point--Acts 2:38 was before God revealed the "Gospel of the grace of God" to Paul

**Act 20:24** But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

**Gal 1:4** Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

**Gal 1:5** To whom *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

**Gal 1:6** I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

**Gal 1:7** Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

**Gal 1:8** But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

**Gal 1:9** As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

**Gal 1:10** For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

**Gal 1:11** But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.

**Gal 1:12** For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught *it*, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.

\*\* Another point--There were no Christians present in Acts 2:38..It was a Jewish Feast and every convert there was a Jew of Jewish convert

\*\* Another point--Not one apostle present in Acts Chapter 2 was ever baptized according to Acts 2:38...(Peter, James & John)

\*\* Another point--If Paul believed this baptism was necessary for salvation then why did he write the following stating he saved people thru the gospel (not water):

**1Co 4:15** For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

\* He was saved 3 days before he was baptized:

**Act 9:6** And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.

**Act 9:7** And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man.

**Act 9:8** And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought *him* into Damascus.

**Act 9:9** And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

If baptism is a requirement for salvation, then why did Paul make these statements?

**1Co 1:14** I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

**1Co 1:17** 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.

This statement was made by the same man who said he would have done anything to see people saved and on their way to heaven (even be cursed himself so his kinsmen would be saved):

**Rom 9:3** For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

**1Co 9:22** To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all *men*, that I might by all means save some.

Paul tells us plainly as gentiles that he is the pattern for us to follow when it comes to the way of salvation and doctrinal practices:

**1Ti 1:16** Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting.

**1Co 11:1** Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ.

\*\*As we have shown before with other false teachings, people get way off base by not rightly dividing the Word of God...If a person tries to apply Jewish doctrines and teachings to the gentile church age, he/she will be confused into believing that we have to keep the Sabbath, be baptized and can lose our salvation. We are gentiles not Jews!

\*\*Now let's look at the preceding verse in verse 37\*\*

**Act 2:37** 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?

Remember the context here...Peter had just spoken to Israel nationally about their killing the Messiah...

**Act 2:14** But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, **Ye men of Judaea**, and all **ye that dwell at Jerusalem**, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

**Act 2:22** **Ye men of Israel**, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

\*\*Did you know that the King James Bible is the only Bible where the 2nd person personal pronouns are given in the plural or singular? Modern English does not given that distinction....

"ye"--is plural (several people or a group)

"you"--is singular (one person)

Now let's look at what was said:

**Act 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.**

He told them individually to repent ("every one of you") and when they did they would receive the gift of the Holy Ghost as a nation ("ye shall receive")

Remember that the whole nation was guilty of the death of Christ:

**Mat 27:25** Then answered all the people, and said, His blood *be* on us, and on our children.

**Act 3:12** And when Peter saw *it*, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

**Act 3:13** The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let *him* go.

**Act 3:14** But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;

**Act 3:15** And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

**Act 4:27** For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

**Act 4:28** For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

This is solidified in Acts 2:17-18 that he will pour out His Spirit on them nationally when they repent:

**Act 2:17** And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

**Act 2:18** And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Jesus Christ is coming back when there is a national repentance of Israel...

**Act 3:19** Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;

**Act 3:20** And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

**Zec 12:10** And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

**Isa 66:8** Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? *or* shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.

**Zec 13:6** And *one* shall say unto him, What *are* these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, *Those* with which I was wounded *in* the house of my friends.

**\*\*GENTILE BAPTISM\*\***

**Act 10:44** While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

**Act 10:45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Act 10:46** For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

**Act 10:47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

**Act 10:48** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

**\*\*Notice a few things here:**

- 1) They received the Holy Ghost before they were baptized...They were saved before baptism....
- 2) They were gentiles and spoke in a known tongue as a sign to the Jews that were present.
- 3) Notice he didn't baptize them in the name of Jesus...He baptized them in the name of the Lord.

**Mat 28:19** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

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He baptized them in the gentile baptism described in Matt. 28:19...The "Lord" is the only name in the Bible that fits all three members of the trinity or Godhead:

God the Father--

**2Co 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**2Co 6:17** Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,

**2Co 6:18** And will be a **Father** unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the **Lord** Almighty.

God the Son--

**1Co 12:3** Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and *that* no man can say that **Jesus is the Lord**, but by the Holy Ghost.

God the Holy Ghost--

**2Co 3:17** Now the **Lord is that Spirit**: and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.

The reason the Jews were baptized in the name of Jesus only is because it was their public admittance that they had killed their own Messiah and they were publicly stating that Jesus Christ is God....

**1Pe 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:

Baptism is "the answer" or response that a good conscience makes toward God...

\*\*Israel was forgiven for murdering their Messiah--

**Luk 23:34** Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

However, Israel must repent in order to get redemption:

**Rom 4:5** But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

**Rom 4:6** Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works,

**Rom 4:7** *Saying*, Blessed *are* they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered.

**Rom 4:8** Blessed *is* the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

**Rom 4:24** But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead;

God has offered forgiveness to every man, woman, boy and girl but if they don't apply that forgiveness they will still go to Hell....

### **THE DEFINITION OF "FOR"**

Another problem with the Church of Christ interpretation of this verse is that they do not correctly define the word "for"...

They automatically assume modern English and define "for" as "to obtain". We must allow the Bible to define itself. The word "for" in the Bible is defined as "because of". Let's look at a few examples....

**Luk 11:32** The men of Nineve shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: **for** they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here.

**Mat 12:41** The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: **because** they repented at the preaching of Jonas; and, behold, a greater than Jonas *is* here.

Notice the same verse in between the two Gospels of Matthew & Luke and they interchange the words "for" & "because"...They have the same meaning in the King James Bible...

**Heb 5:3** And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, **to offer for sins.**

Did he offer to obtain sins or because of sins?

**Mat 10:9** Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses,  
**Mat 10:10** Nor scrip for *your* journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: **for the workman** is worthy of his meat.

Is it "in order to obtain the workman" or "because the workman"?

**Luk 9:13** But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

Did they buy meat "to obtain" the people or "because of" the people?

**Mar 1:44** And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer **for thy cleansing** those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

Was he to offer "to obtain" his cleansing or offer "because of" his cleansing?..It had to be "because of" due to the fact he was already cleansed in verse 42 of this same chapter...

**Psa 118:29** O give thanks unto the LORD; for *he is* good: for his mercy *endureth* for ever.

Are we to give thanks unto the Lord "to obtain" his mercy or "because of" his mercy...Is it "to obtain" him a good or "because" he is good?

**Psa 118:1** O give thanks unto the LORD; **for** *he is* good: **because** his mercy *endureth* for ever.

Notice in this verse that the same Hebrew word is used yet it is defined as "because" by the King James Bible...

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**Gen 43:32** And they set on for him by himself, and for them by themselves, and for the Egyptians, which did eat with him, by themselves: **because** the Egyptians might not eat bread with the Hebrews; **for** that *is* an abomination unto the Egyptians.

Again, above is an example of "for" and "because" being the same Hebrew word in the Old Testament and being defined as because. kîy is used again.

**1Co 12:12** For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.

**1Co 12:13** 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.

We are baptized by the Spirit at the moment of salvation. No water is present for this baptism. This is the baptism that John spoke of that was coming. Not with water, but of the Spirit.

Last Point: What about the thief on the cross that was never baptized with water?

1) He was promised paradise by Jesus Himself...

**Luk 23:43** And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

2) He was crucified during the dispensation of law and died in the dispensation of grace. Why? Because Jesus had already died before he did.....

**Joh 19:32** Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.

**Joh 19:33** But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:

The Bible clearly teaches that the N.T. went into effect immediately when the testator died...

**Heb 9:16** For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.

**Heb 9:17** For a testament *is* of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.

Therefore, under Church of Christ teaching, there is no way that the thief on the cross could have made it to Heaven because he wasn't baptized under their New Testament teachings...

How do we receive the Holy Spirit, by baptism? No, by faith!

**Gal 3:1** O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

**Gal 3:2** This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

**Gal 3:3** Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?

The Holy Spirit is given to us...

**Rom 5:5** And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

**1Jo 3:24** And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.

**1Jo 4:13** Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.