

RESPONDING CORRECTLY TO THE TRUTH

Importance of Truth

The Spirit's work was to **reveal the truth** – Jn. 16:13-14.

Sanctification comes **through the truth** – Jn. 17:17, 19

Purification comes by **obeying the truth** – 1 Pet. 1:22

Being set free comes through **knowing the truth** – Jn. 8:31-32

A holy life requires **practicing the truth** – Jn. 3:20-21

Acceptable worship is **done in truth** – Jn. 4:24

WHAT DOES THE TRUTH REQUIRE?

Saul

- ◎ Lived life with a **good conscience** – Acts 23:1
- ◎ Lived this way **despite persecuting Christians** and **blaspheming** – Acts 7:57-58, 8:3, 26:9-11; 1 Tim. 1:12-13
- ◎ Was **confronted with the truth** that he persecuted Jesus the Christ – Acts 9:3-6
- ◎ What did Saul have to do? **Obey!** – Acts 9:8-9; 22:14-16; 1 Pet. 3:21
- ◎ Responding correctly to the truth requires **obedience** despite one having a **good conscience** and **facing hardship**

Peter

- ◎ Preached the gospel only to the Jews – Acts 11:19; 10:1-8
- ◎ Was **confronted with the truth** that salvation is not limited to the Jews – Acts 10:9-16
- ◎ Was **commanded to go** with Gentiles “without misgivings” – 10:17-20
- ◎ What did Peter have to do? **Obey!** – Acts 10:23-29, 34-35
- ◎ Responding correctly to the truth requires **obedience** even when the truth is **contrary to what you have believed your whole life!**

Apollos

- ◎ Was a **knowledgeable** and **capable preacher of Christ**, but taught **error** concerning **baptism** – Acts 18:24-25; Mt. 18:18-20
- ◎ Was **confronted with the truth** concerning **baptism** – 18:26
- ◎ What did Apollos have to do? **Accept the truth and change!** – 1 Tim. 4:16
- ◎ Responding correctly to the truth requires **obedience** even when **it is just one issue**—even when that issue is **baptism!**

The Disciples at Ephesus

- ◎ Paul found disciples and asked about whether they received the Spirit when they believed – Acts 19:1-3
 - There was a problem with their **baptism**—it was **John's baptism**
 - John's baptism **looked in the wrong direction** concerning **salvation** – Acts 19:4; Rom. 6:3-4
- ◎ What did these disciple have to do? **Obey and be re-baptized** – Acts 19:5-6
- ◎ Responding correctly to the truth requires being **re-baptized** in order to **act in truth** and be **saved**.

What about the Truth and Baptism Today?

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- Most denominational baptism is for **saved people** and believed to be a **sign** of their **past salvation**.
- The problem, like John's baptism, is that their baptism **looks in the opposite direction concerning salvation** than does N.T. baptism.
- "Baptism then, is not an "option" for the believer in Christ but it is an ordinance.... These ordinances are **symbols** setting forth divine truth. **They are not sacraments, that is, saving acts, conveying grace. They do not have power to save or to add to salvation. Rather they are external testimony to the "union with Christ" which has already taken place...Baptism is true baptism only if the person baptized has already been saved.** ("**Baptizing Them In The Name...**"; Baptist tract by Robert E. Naylor)

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N.T. Baptism is Performed to...

- ⦿ Save you – 1 Pet. 3:21
- ⦿ Bring you into Christ – Rom. 6:3; Gal. 3:27
- ⦿ Receive forgiveness of your sins – Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16
- ⦿ Bury you with Christ so you can be raised with Christ – Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12
- ⦿ If you were not baptized for these reasons, to correctly respond to the truth requires that you **obey** by being **baptized or re-baptized for these reasons** – Heb. 5:8-9