

And now a second writer for the Restoration Herald comes out for the Baptist position on what sins are forgiven when we are saved.

Bill Tucker writes, “A long-lasting error in doctrine within the Church has been that baptism is for the remission of past sins only. ... A founding father of the Restoration Movement, Alexander Campbell, believed baptism was for past sins only. In 1843, he debated Nathan Rice on the issue of whether baptism was for past sins only; Rice opposed, Campbell affirmed.”

“Campbell is referring to 1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

Tucker writes “This is 1) a misapplication of Scripture; 2) an implausible accounting for sins after baptism; 3) an incomplete understanding of justification; 4) minimizes the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the process of sanctification; and 5) it is a ‘different gospel.’”

Tucker writes, “the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin (1Jn 1.7).

Let’s take a look –1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

It does say, “the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.”

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

But what Bill left out is the “if clause”.

There are five main ways of constructing conditional sentences in English. In all cases, these sentences are made up of an if clause and a main clause.

From English Resources we learn about conditional clauses:

If this thing happens that thing will happen.

1Jn 1:7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

What is the condition?

“but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light”

What will happen if we fulfill the “if clause”?

“we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”

It is not just “we have fellowship with one another” because there is what English (and Greek) styles as a coordinate conjunction – “and”.

conjunctions that join, or coordinate, two or more items (such as words, main clauses, or sentences) of equal syntactic importance

What is joined in this verse?

and “the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin”

the blood of Jesus His Son does not cleans[es] us
from all sin

if

we do not walk in the Light as He Himself is in the
Light”

In fact, Bill misses 1Jn 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth;

With the same thoughts in mind on the English (and Greek) languages, we find another conditional “if clause” – “If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness”

what is the result? – we lie and do not practice the truth

You might ask how a self proclaimed “gospel preacher” could make such an error?

The answer is simple in Bill Tucker’s case – he had help from Jack Cottrell

But then, you probably know that preachers have access to the word of God, but many don’t follow or preach it.

Act 20:28-30 "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. (29) "I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; (30) and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.

Remember Bill went on to say, “2) an implausible accounting for sins after baptism;”

Bill says, “In Campbell’s model, the Christian is continually stepping in and out of God’s grace.”

I think that’s what the Good Book says isn’t it?

1Jn 1:7-8 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, ... (8) If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

What is to be done if we find ourselves in sin?

We need to get back to “walk[ing] in the Light,” and we need to 1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

To whom do we confess them – He!

Not to some priest or preacher but to He as the NAS clearly shows by capitalizing He, the text refers to God!

Bill then brings up, Rom 8:1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

That returns us to 1Jn 1:7-8 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light

what happens if we have walked off the path of light?

The blood of Jesus, His Son, no longer cleanses us!

Act 8:13 Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip

Act 8:18-20 Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, (19) saying, "Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." (20) But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!

Here's a case of a baptized believer who is destined to perish with his money. Not saved by the blood of Christ but lost.

Act 8:21 "You have no part or portion in this matter, for your heart is not right before God.

1Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Bill then says, under 3) an incomplete understanding of justification, “when God’s own righteousness is bestowed on sinners, by grace, through faith in Jesus, it means we are immune from any penalty of sin, whether that sins is before or after baptism. Why? Rom 6:14 *For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*”

4) Ignores the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the process of sanctification

“We should pray to God confessing specific sins, not for pardon, this is done for us in justification, but towards sanctification.”

That’s foolish preacher confusion! – God says, 1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Unless I am mistaken, forgiving us is pardoning us.

How does the erring child of God get back on the path of righteousness? He turns back to the path (repents) and starts walking on the path. When he confesses his sin to God, *He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

It appears to me that Bill doesn't understand God's word.

Eph 5:17 So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

5) it is a “different gospel”.

Bill says, “‘baptism for the remission of past sins only’ is a different gospel from the one found in the New Testament.”

Act 8:22 "Therefore repent of this wickedness of yours, and pray the Lord that, if possible, the intention of your heart may be forgiven you.

It's right there in the book!

Psa 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (106) I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules. (107) I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word! (108) Accept my freewill offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your rules.

Rev 2.10 ... Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

Act 22:16 And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on his name.'