

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

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CHRIST'S GREATEST OPPONENTS

Jim Stauffer

When we read the story of Jesus' personal ministry while He lived on the earth, we soon learn Satan is his arch enemy. They stand for opposites, Christ for righteousness and Satan for sin. Yet it is a bit surprising when we see who Satan uses as the chief persons to reject Christ and persecute Him and His disciples.

Even before Christ began His preaching, John the Baptist was *The voice of one crying in the wilderness.....preaching in the wilderness of Judea saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand...* (Matthew 3). As he did he recognized those who came to his preaching in an attempt to disrupt his message. He said to those Pharisees and Sadducees,*You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?* (Matthew 3:7)

So, while the multitudes were repenting and being baptized by John, the leaders of the religious sects of the Jews were intent upon interfering in his efforts to bring God's people to His Son, Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ.

It is not then surprising at all they treated Jesus in the same fashion. While Jesus describes the opponents of the Son of God Who is described as the Light of the world as men who loved darkness rather than light in **John 3:19-21**, it is very interesting to find the religious leaders of His day as his chief opponents. Make no mistake, He is clearly telling us when men oppose His presentation of the truth, they are evil men who love darkness rather than light.

These same religious leaders are later identified by the Lord as the sons of the devil himself (**John 8:39-44**). Representing themselves as the proponents of God's people under the Law of Moses, they tried to kill Jesus, God's Son **vs. 40**.

This continues with the Lord's disciples just as He

warned them in **John 15:18-20**. They were jailed for preaching Christ against the wishes of these Pharisees and Sadducees in **Acts chapter 5**. The Lord released them from the prison and they immediately returned to the temple to preach the message of Christ again. When they were again commanded to cease and desist from preaching Christ, this was their response, "*But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men."* (**Acts 5:29**) We learn at least two things from this incident. First their faith in the message Jesus delivered to them. Second, the danger this presented to the Jewish leaders and what they were attempting to teach the people.

The lesson for us is religious leaders who object to and oppose the teaching of the things Jesus said or His disciples said while guided by the Holy Spirit, are the objections of evil men who prefer darkness over light.

Jesus is the Light of the world by His own admission. That He is the Son of God should cause reverence on the part of all who believe in the God of heaven and earth. When men today speak according to the words of the Lord (**1 Pet. 4:11**) and are opposed by men whose authority are men who taught what they believed instead of teaching what the Scriptures reveal they must realize Jesus' prophetic words of **John 15:18-20** are coming to fruition.

Preachers of the gospel of Christ as the disciples of the first century must repeat the message of Christ no matter who opposes it. As preachers of the gospel, they cannot be intimidated into silence.

As the apostle Paul said, "*God forbid: yea, let God be found true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy words, and mightest prevail when thou comest into judgment."* (**Romans 3:4**)

Exodus -- a book of deliverance and patterns

The book of Exodus is a hugely significant book in the Bible. I am afraid it may be underrated. After the record of so much sin and failure through the book of Genesis, Exodus is a book of deliverance and patterns from the God who saves.

God makes Himself known by bringing the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage. As one reads the battle between Moses and Pharaoh over the Israelite people, over and over again one reads that the plagues were put on the Egyptians under the watchful eyes of the Israelites in order *"that they may know that I AM the Lord..."* Indeed the account was made known to the world, that they all might know the God of Israel. The salvation of Israel from slavery was only possible by the magnificent power of Almighty God.

Israel was delivered from Egypt and presented to God. In **Exodus 19** God explains that they were now His people, if only they would obey His voice. All the earth belongs to God, but these would be God's special, chosen people. They belonged to Him. Their relationship was dependent upon their faithful obedience to His will. So, over the next few chapters the law was delivered from God, through Moses to the people of Israel.

The second half of the book is primarily an account of the building of the Tabernacle. That *"tent of meeting"* represented the dwelling place of God, among His people. So, to this Tabernacle the people would bring their sacrifices, and offer their service. Reading the instructions for the building of the Tabernacle, its furniture and priests' garments is a tedious exercise. There are so many specific instructions detailing exactly what God required. Materials, colors, dimensions, structure, shape and decorations were all specified. As you read you begin to see the phrase that each thing should be done *"as the Lord had commanded Moses..."* Continue reading and you will find the account of the actual building process. Closer to the end you will begin to find the often repeated statement that everything was done *"according to the commandment given to Moses."* God was looking for humble submission of human hearts to His will in trust and reverence.

We need to see that our only deliverance from our bondage in sin is by the great power of God. We are

delivered from sin *unto God*. We belong to Him. His ownership and claim on us will be seen in our careful attention to doing all things according to the pattern delivered to us, through Christ in the gospel.

Don Bunting

Is Baptism "For the Forgiveness of Your Sins"?

Cleveland Reddinger

Before I obeyed the gospel of Jesus Christ I was attending various churches; United Presbyterian, United Methodist & Baptist, just to name a few. All of these churches assured me that I was saved at the very instant I believed in my heart that Jesus was the Son of God. My disillusionment with them began when I began comparing what I was being told with what I was reading in the Bible for myself. It got so bad that I would skip over certain verses because they did not agree with what I wanted to believe. I was literally scared of those verses! Then, one day, it dawned on me: If I were truly a Christian, why should I be afraid of the New Testament? What I was doing was exactly the same as taking scissors and cutting those verses out of the Bible! One of those verses was **Acts 2:37, 38** where we read: *"Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, 'Brethren, what shall we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'" (NAS95)* Now here is the answer to the question posed by our title and the answer is emphatically, "Yes!" But, what does that mean?

Well, the Baptist explanation (and I call it this because that's the one most people follow, certainly no ill will intended) is that you are baptized *because* you were forgiven of your sins. It is true that the English word 'for' can be used in that sense. The problem is that the New Testament wasn't written in English. It was written in Greek and the Greek word used here is 'eis' (pronounced 'ace') and it means according to Strong: "to or into (indicating the point reached or entered), of place, time, or (figuratively) purpose (result, etc.)." In other words the Greek indicates we are baptized "into the forgiveness" of our sins when we are baptized in the name of Jesus. This makes sense because of another exceptionally important verse in the New Testament.

In **Matthew 26** we read the account of Jesus

instituting the Lord's Supper on the very night of his betrayal by Judas. Here we read, "And when He had taken a cup and given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, *"Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins."* (Matthew 26:26 & 27) The wording in **Matthew 26:27** and in **Acts 2:38** is identical in both the English and the Greek (excepting 'the' and 'your' in Acts 2:38, NAS95). Now, was Jesus' blood poured out because we were "already forgiven of our sins", or "in order to obtain the forgiveness of our sins". Well, obviously it is the latter, "in order to obtain" the forgiveness of our sins!

And that is exactly what baptism is for! Baptism alone? NO! Baptism as the response of an obedient heart as an act of faith? Yes.

Children's Behavior in Worship

One of the greatest responsibilities parents face is that of teaching their children proper behavior in worship. Children's interest in spiritual matters depends so greatly on their parent's success.

Teaching children that they are to be quiet is important, but good behavior in worship reaches far beyond this. Children must be taught reverence and respect for God. They must learn to stay awake, to sing, to listen, to participate. Their interest should grow as their capacity for learning grows. We offer the following suggestions.

Sit near the front. There are fewer distractions up front. If adults are distracted in the back (and they are bound to be), children may totally forget where they are. You might teach them to be quiet back there, but you will hardly be able to teach them to listen and participate. Make a rule very early in your children's lives that they never, never sit behind you.

Don't let your children routinely go to the restroom. The time for using the restrooms is before they leave home or just before the worship begins. Then they probably will not need to go during the worship period. Exceptions should be few and far between for normal children. The restroom parades that occur in most worship periods are unnecessary and distracting. Never let your children go to the water fountain. They can wait.

Don't let them play. Toddlers will need something for their entertainment, but when children reach four, five, or six years old, they are old enough to sit quietly without

entertainment. You will be surprised at how soon they will learn the words of songs and what they might glean from a sermon.

If possible, see that they get proper rest the night before. Lack of sleep increases irritability and restlessness.

Set a good example before them. Children whose parents demonstrate little fervor, interest, and reverence in worship will likely demonstrate little of these qualities themselves.

Pray for God's help. The task is not easy, but great joy awaits those who are successful.

by Bill Hall; Taken from Beacon Electronic Edition; 8/21/21

We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.

Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ

We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.

Things people believe about biblical subjects that are not so!

Did you know the Bible does not teach the commonly accepted doctrine of the rapture?

Please call us to study the Bible. It is refreshing.

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.”

(Matthew 7:7-8)

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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Alma Baumgartner, Jan Patrick,
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Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy
Richardson, Jordan Moody,
Don Craig, Tina Brofft, Ken
Green, Matt Bassford, Tim
Young and Judy Root.

Bible Classes:

Sunday Morning - Hebrews -
Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening - 1&2
Peter and Jude - Ron Peck



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10