

January 22, 2017

church of Christ at Alisal

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“You Think You are the Only Ones Going to Heaven?”

By Jeff Arnette

Have you ever had someone say that to you? You have spent time trying to express to them the difference between our church and others. You have spent time trying to help them understand what we believe and why, only to have them misunderstand and throw out that statement. I am sure that it happens more than any of us would like to admit. When this happens they walk away with an unfortunate misunderstanding of our church.

This causes them to conclude that we are judgmental and think we are the only ones going to heaven. This is really a sad misunderstanding and yet, in some cases, it has proven to be true for some. Many members of the church do leave the impression that they are the only ones who truly get it and are the only ones who will make it to heaven. That is not true of all members of the church of Christ.

We do, however, like the majority of those who consider themselves Christians, believe that only submission to Jesus will save a person. We believe that unless you submit your will and obey Him to the best of your ability, you will not be saved (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46-49). We preach and teach in almost every gathering of the church, “If you want to be saved then you must come to Jesus and obey Him.”

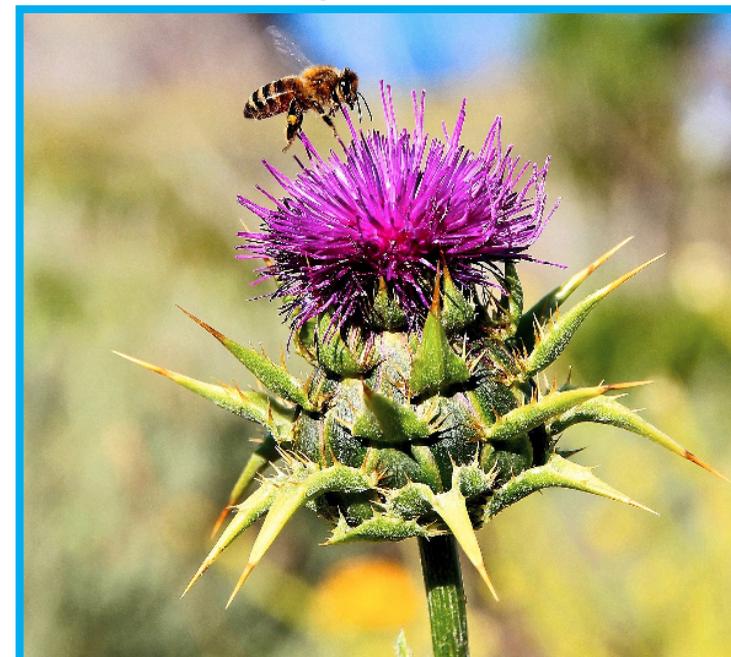
Submission to Jesus and His word has always been the thrust of the whole New Testament. In Luke 6:46-49, Jesus taught us that if we build the house our way it is built on shifting sands and will not last. When the difficulties of life come it will fail us. On the other hand if we build our house on the rock, the teachings of Jesus, then our lives will stand strong no matter what happens to us. Submission and obedience to Jesus is the only way to be saved from our sins. There is no other way. “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12).

I don’t think anyone could say better than what God the Father has already said. Once Jesus took His closest friends and went up on a mountain. There He was transfigured before them. He changed from His bodily form to His glorious spiritual form and the disciples were overwhelmed. Peter as he often does speaks first and asks if they should build three memorial’s to commemorate the event. At that moment the Father speaks from heaven and says, “This is my beloved Son; listen to Him.” (Mark 9:7)

This is all I ask of people today and all that we ask as a church. If you want to be saved from your sins and go to heaven; then you must come to Jesus and listen to Him.

The best way to compliment the preacher on his sermon is to bring somebody with you to hear the next one.

Are You Listening?



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. (John 1:1-5)

MEETING UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK
Listen on AM Radio 880 KKMC in Salinas, California
2nd Friday of each month @ 1:30 pm

Bible Classes..... 9:00 A.M.
Assemblies..... 10:00 A.M. & 5:00 P.M.

<http://churchofchristalisal.com/>

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class, Singing, & Prayer..... 6:30 P.M.

Welcome

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters!

This Week's Sermon's

A.M. - Spiritual Blessings In Christ - 1

P.M. - Spiritual Blessings In Christ - 2

Faith, or Faith Plus Baptism?

by Barry Newton



A week ago, I returned to my office to discover an articulate question on the answering machine. "When is a person justified, upon faith or upon faith plus baptism?"

The question merely caused me to smile. It would seem reasonable to presume this theological trap had been set by a very sincere and ardent individual. Unfortunately, his question assumes a false framework.

Obviously, he assumed faith is merely something in one's head and heart and therefore can easily be separated from the physical activity of baptism. What message might cause him to consider the possibility that perhaps when the gospel calls for people to trust in Jesus this involves baptism? What could lead him to consider the possibility that faith and baptism might be inseparable?

Suddenly the idea of a question he would never consider popped to mind. And so, the internet sped along a brief email suggesting that biblical faith and baptism cannot be separated followed by this question:

"When is a person justified, upon faith or upon faith plus saying a sinner's prayer?"

The goal was not to win an argument, but to help someone reexamine their assumptions in view of God's word. For if we are going to think biblically, we need to start with biblical definitions and with a biblical framework, not merely inherited ones.

I anticipated he would have a hard time even comprehending how faith and baptism could be inseparable, Yet, I felt assured he would immediately object to separating faith from inviting Jesus into one's heart.

If from his perspective he would acknowledge that it is impossible to separate faith from the activity of saying a sinner's prayer, then we would be prepared to begin examining the scriptures regarding the nature of faith and whether faith in Christ can be separated from the activity of baptism.

As far as I can determine, the New Testament authors would be shocked at even conceiving of the idea of "faith plus baptism." Why? Because they taught and practiced that for someone to begin to trust in Christ for salvation required immersion.



To end this little story, he informed me that he held to a Reformed viewpoint and wanted to know if I had any resources explaining my understanding of the gospel in more depth. Nearly a week ago I sent an email with a variety of links. And then there was silence. Wherever he is I hope he chooses to rely upon Christ's death for him by being buried with Christ in baptism.

Role Models

By Ron Thomas

"He who walks with wise men will be wise. But the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Proverbs 13:20, NKJV).

It has been said by some professional athletes that they desire not to be role models. When I hear this I marvel at the naiveté because each person is influential to some varying degree, and it can't be anything but this way. Thus we can't control whether or not we are influential, but we can control what others see and hear in us. The wise one gains wisdom from the wise, and the righteous one gains righteous wisdom from One who is the standard of righteousness (John 14:6). The fool, on the other hand, is also influential, but his influence not only destroys himself—it leads to the destruction of others who follow in his footsteps

Opportunity may knock only once, but temptation leans on the doorbell.

Announcements

1. Brother Paul will be giving the invitation this Wednesday evening.
2. We offer a big thank you to Jordan, Kerry, and Nito for filling in while Paul and Judy were away - God bless you brothers!

~ On the Prayer list

- Charles Barry** - for healing of the on-going infection in his leg.
- Bobby Glover** - to successfully teach others about Jesus while in prison.
- Michael White** - for helping others as he serves his time.
- Our country** - and our newly elected President Trump and VP Pence.
- All the saints** - and the knowledge to teach those who are outside the body of Christ.

Have a blessed week!

*Singing and prayer this coming Wednesday evening -
Let's all prepare ourselves for this great opportunity!*