

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

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How to Obtain Salvation

By Arron Littleton

Unfortunately, these days, there is no shortage of ways people think they are to receive salvation. Some believe in limited atonement, sprinkling babies, irresistible grace and so forth. But they are too busy trying to come up with false ways to obtain salvation and they fail to realize that there is only one way to achieve salvation and a place with God in Heaven. That one way is through His grace, if we follow the simple instructions that He has provided for us.

One of the most beneficial pieces of information we need to remember is that sin separates us from God. So if we sin and do not take the appropriate measures to be reconciled with God, we are not counted among the saints again until we do so (see Isa. 59:1-2; I Jn. 1:7-8).

After we are lost because of sin, the only way to be restored to God is through the blood of Christ (Col. 1:14; I Jn. 2:2). Once we have been reconciled with Christ, our sin is remembered no more and we may once again take our place among the saints of Christ.

What must we do to be reconciled to God? There are only a few simple instructions we must follow to be reconciled unto God and win a crown of life at the end of time. We must hear the Word (Rom. 10:17), believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He died for our sins and was resurrected (Mark 16:16), repent of your past transgressions (Acts 2:38), confess your faith in Jesus (Rom. 10:9), and remain faithful for the rest of your days (Gal. 5:16-26).

If Christ came right this very moment, where would you spend your eternity? Heaven or Hell? It is the most important question anyone should ever ask themselves. So, if there is something holding us back from being counted among the Lord's saints, is it really more important than your own soul?

Local News:

Kyle Austin's checkup on Monday proved positive. He will have his wound vacuum pump removed this Wednesday and begin the slow process of healing. He is encouraged in that the report revealed his ability to get back to regular activities very soon.

Check out our **live chat line on Monday evenings at 8:00 PM!**
<http://www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org/chat/>

Although the chat line is designed to preach to the lost members of the church are encouraged to log on and participate in Bible discussion too.

Relief Needed:

Luis Zamora, of Austin Texas, has recently lost all his support for preaching. The South Austin church has lost so many members that they can no longer afford to support their preacher. If you can help you may send the aid to the follow address:

Luis Zamora
212 Morrell
Kyle, TX 78640-8818
(512) 657-9371

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Verlon Powell
Rolling Meadows Health Care
Room 31

Calvin York:
692-0489 (Home).

Scriptural Baptism

By Blake Robertson

Many Religions have their own ways to baptize. Everything about their method of baptism is wrong if they do not follow the Bible's revealed pattern. For example, the Catholic church sprinkles infants and claims that the baby is saved for life. Here are some points that prove them wrong.

How Must we Obtain Salvation?

- A. By hearing God's word (Rom. 10:17)
- B. Believe (Mark. 16:16)
- C. Repent (change our evil ways) (Acts 2:38)
- D. Confess that Jesus is the Christ (Rom. 10:9)
- E. Be Baptized (Acts 2:38)
- F. Remain faithful (Heb. 10:23-26)

Right Ways and Attitudes for Baptism:

- A. Jn. 3:23 clearly states that we use "much water."
- B. We should have a right purpose in being baptized. The purpose for baptism is so that we may be forgiven of our sins (Acts 2:38).
- C. Our intent should be focused on getting in Christ body (I Cor. 12:13).
- D. The authority comes in Christ name (Matt. 28:18-19).

Conclusion:

Baptism is the answer of a good conscience as opposed to a guilty one (I Pet. 3:20-21). After baptism, one walks in newness of life. Baptism is simple. The Bible lays it all out in front of us on how we must be baptized and the reason we must do so. Denominations like Catholicism try to add and take away from God's word on baptism. A baby can in no way hear, believe, repent, be baptized for the remission of sins and remain faithful. The denominations are simply not looking at what God's word has to say.

Church Autonomy

20 August 2006

Introduction:

The church of Christ is comprised of those who have answered the call of the gospel and thereby received the remission of their sins (cf. Acts 2:38ff; II Thess. 2:13-14). The Lord's church (or people) have a specific work to perform (i.e., evangelize, edifying its members, and performing acts of benevolence to needy saints).

The church of Jesus Christ is organized locally to achieve the work of the church (Phil. 1:1). Each church is to have qualified elders (pastor or bishop) to superintend the work of the church (Acts 14:23). Elders are to tend the congregation they are appointed to serve (Acts 20:28; I Pet. 5:1-2). There are no examples in the word of God where an eldership of one local church manages or directs another church in its work. The scriptures are clear regarding the local church's work and each one's autonomous responsibilities.

I. What is church autonomy?

- A. The English word "autonomy" is defined as "A self-governing state, community, or group" (AHD 143). Though the word "autonomy" is not found in the Bible the concept is.
- B. The Apostle Peter's words help immensely. Peter said, "*The elders therefore among you I exhort, who am a fellow-elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, who am also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Tend the flock of God which is among you, exercising the oversight, not of constraint, but willingly, according to the will of God; nor yet for filthy lucre but of a ready mind; neither as lording it over the charge allotted to you, but making yourselves ensamples to the flock*" (I Pet. 5:1-3).
- C. What then does autonomy mean to a local church?

II. Universal truth equates to universal individual responsibility:

- A. While the apostle Paul was bound by chains and confined to a prison cell, he wrote to Timothy saying, "*wherein I suffer hardship unto bonds, as a malefactor; but the word of God is not bound*" (II Tim. 2:9).
- B. The Lord never intended local churches to isolate themselves by refusing communication with other churches (Rom. 16; II Cor. 8:18-24).
- C. The individual Christian has a universal responsibility.

III. A picture of a working autonomous church (III John):

- A. III John is an apparent exchange between Gaius and the apostle John regarding the affairs of the local church.
- B. No violation in church autonomy occurred as these preachers of truth went from church to church and exposed error.

Conclusion to study:

A study of church autonomy must take into consideration the universality of truth and the responsibilities of individual Christians in relation to that truth. When a brother in Christ exposes sin at a congregation that he does not belong to, he does not violate that church's autonomy. When a brother in Christ edifies and or defends truth in other areas, no one's autonomy is being violated.