

Good News

From Getwell

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SCHEDULE OF WEEKLY ACTIVITY

SUNDAY

Bible Study.....9:30 a.m.
Worship.....10:20 a.m.
Worship.....5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00 p.m.

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ON THE HOME FRONT

Let us think on Psalms 4 this week.

Psalms 4

- 4 Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy upon me, and hear my prayer.
- 2 O ye sons of men, how long will ye turn my glory into shame? how long will ye love vanity, and seek after leasing? Selah.
- 3 But know that the LORD hath set apart him that is Godly for himself: the LORD will hear when I call unto him.
- 4 Stand in awe, and sin not: commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. Selah.
- 5 Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.
- 6 There be many that say, Who will shew us any good? LORD, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.
- 7 Thou hast put gladness in my heart, more than in the time that their corn and their wine increased.
- 8 I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.

Until next week

Ron Wallace

THE MOST DANGEROUS DOCTRINE OF ALL (Part 2)

By Michael Wyatt

From last week's article, I would like to continue with a few more thoughts. I was discussing how I believed that the denominational doctrine of "Faith Only" was the most dangerous doctrine of all. I questioned why one would accept the doctrine of men, while Jesus' words could not be clearer. I discussed how that man would say, "There is not one passage in the Bible that teaches that baptism is essential to salvation." I gave the illustration how that six times in the New Testament we find the words Baptism and Salvation joined together and it is always #1 Baptism, and #2 Salvation, and that there is no exception to that rule. The only response that one could give to that is, "Well, I know that's the order those six times, but you know, the order is insignificant." And my response to that would be, "Well, sir, who are you?" I wouldn't want to be unkind or disrespectful, but "Who are you?" Let me illustrate: Suppose a man walked up to me on the street, in plain clothes, and grabbed me by the arm and said, "I'm going to take you to jail." I would have a lot of questions, but one of those would be, "Well, I don't want to be impolite, but sir, who are you? I mean, if you are going to take me to jail, I'd like to see something that gives you the right to do that." Well, he takes out his badge which shows him as an officer of the law, and I say, "Ok, and could you answer some more questions for me?" But I see from that badge that he has the right, the authority to take me to jail. But here is a man that comes along after I've read these six passages from God's word, and he says, "Well, the order is really insignificant." And so I say, "What are your credentials, where did you get the authority to say that the order of the Bible is insignificant? Where is your badge of God's approval?" And all in the world I have is an uninspired man's word against the Word of God. And I've got to go with God! I'll stay with what the Lord said.

While I was preaching in Lebanon, TN, a few years back, my wife and I became members of the local gym. We were taking a kick-boxing class (if you know me you might question that, but it's true) and one of the younger men and I worked out beside one another toward the back of the class. As we became friends, we talked about our professions, and when he found out I was a preacher in the church of Christ he let me know that he was brought up in the church. I asked him where he attended and he told me that after he married his bride they started attending the Baptist church for the last several years. I was curious about this and asked how he reconciled the invitations in each church. I said, "being brought up in the church and hearing every invitation of believing, repenting, confessing, and being baptized for remission of sins, and that for the past several years you have heard, 'Accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and say this prayer, and you will be saved,' how do you reconcile that?" I guess it was too much for him to contemplate because he moved to the front of the class, and avoided any contact with me. I would sure like to have heard an answer to that.

Let me close with a chart I would like you to complete. Outline the position of baptism in relation to salvation in the following passages:

Mark 16:15-16	_____ believeth _____	W _____	shall be saved _____
Acts 2:38	_____	A _____	_____
Acts 22:16	_____	T _____	_____
Gal. 3:27	_____	E _____	_____
I Pet. 3:21	_____	R _____	_____

I have stressed from the beginning of last week's article that I believed that "Faith Only" was perhaps the most dangerous doctrine, certainly in our day. So many refuse to hear what Christ Himself said about being saved, for the "comfort," of "Accept Jesus as your personal Savior and say the sinner's prayer." Listen to the Lord's words: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16: 16). Will you follow the doctrines of men, or will you follow the Lord? "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only" (James 2:24).

RON'S REMINDERS



Are the Various Denominations Branches of the True Vine?

Jesus identified Himself as the vine: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser" (John 15:1). He explained the work of branches was bearing fruit, warning that, "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes" (15:2).

Some suggest that this parable is a picture of the contemporary church, with all the various denominations forming the Lord's church. It is sometimes shown in the form of a tree, with various branches depicting how different religious groups have grown out of one another. The text reveals, however, that the branches are not the different religious sects of "Christendom," but instead are individual Christians.

In John 15, Jesus is speaking to the apostles as individuals, not religious groups. The emphasis is on what the individual disciple must do. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples" (15:5-8).

The disciples "are the branches." Branches are people, not churches ("If anyone does not abide in Me").

The branches must bear fruit for the farmer. Fruitfulness is the product of a Christian life and comes only from abiding in Christ. The branch cannot bear fruit of itself, "for without Me you can do nothing" (15:4-5).

What we can do in Christ, however, is unlimited. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). The key is to be in Christ, abiding in Him. Paul said, "For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

Christ did not want His followers to divide into various religious groups and denominations. As He prepared for the cross, He prayed, "I do not pray for these alone [the apostles], but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me" (John 17:20 -21).

He wanted all who believe the testimony of the apostles to be united.