
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Are Baptists right about Jn 3:16?**

The Baptist denomination is not mentioned in the Bible. Take a Bible concordance or do a computer search and you will search in vain. There is no mention of the Baptist church in the Bible.

This fact alone should concern the members of the Baptist Church.

Let's read Jn 3:16 and then notice how this denomination, which is not mentioned in the Bible, interprets this verse:

John 3:16

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

The Baptist Church teaches the entire plan of salvation for a sinner is found in that single verse of scripture. In other words, all a sinner has to do to be saved is simply believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. The Baptist Church further argues that since baptism is not mentioned in Jn 3:16, baptism is not necessary for salvation.

Here are some interesting facts you should notice about Jn 3:16:

- 1) ***Jn 3:16 does not claim to contain the entire plan of salvation.*** If it did make such a claim, then the Baptists would be right. But the fact of the matter is, this passage does not claim to contain the entire plan of salvation.
- 2) ***Jn 3:16 does not mention repentance.*** Jesus said in Lk 13:3, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." The Baptist Church doesn't really know what to say about repentance. They believe repentance is necessary, but it's not mentioned in Jn 3:16. The old Baptist debaters of another generation took the position, therefore, that repentance comes before belief in Christ. But this does not help the Baptist position because whether repentance comes before or after belief, the point is, belief alone does not save a sinner – Jn 3:16 does not contain the entire plan of salvation.

- 3) ***Jn 3:16 does not mention the “sinner’s prayer.”*** Think about this carefully. All Baptist literature quotes Jn 3:16 and then tells people to say a prayer which they call the “sinner’s prayer.” Did you know there is no such thing in the Bible as the “sinner’s prayer”? If you search in your Bible concordance or if you do a computer search, you will search in vain. It is not present. Do you know why the sinner’s prayer can’t be found? Because the Bible plainly says, “We know God does not hear a sinner” (Jn 9:31). If God doesn’t hear a sinner, then it would do no good for a sinner to pray – would it?
- 4) ***Jn 3:16 does not teach sinners to “accept Jesus as your personal Savior.”*** This is a very popular statement by the Baptist Church, but you will never find this statement in Jn 3:16 or any other Bible passage. The idea of “accepting Jesus as your personal Savior” implies that salvation is simply a matter of a decision made in the mind of the sinner. Actually, salvation is something that happens in the mind of God – not in the mind of the sinner. Repentance is when a sinner changes his mind about God. Repentance occurs in the mind of a sinner. But forgiveness occurs in the mind of God and just because a sinner believes that Jesus is the Son of God and just because the sinner has changed his mind about Jesus, this does not mean the sinner’s position has been changed in the mind of God.

BAPTISM

The sinner’s position is changed in the mind of God when the sinner is baptized in water for the remission of sins.

Acts 2:38

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; ...

Does a sinner have to believe that Jesus is the Son of God like Jn 3:16 teaches? Absolutely, but this is not the whole story. If Jn 3:16 contained the entire story of salvation, there would be no need for the rest of the Bible. If Jn 3:16 were the whole story, all we would need was Jn 3:16 on a single card and that would be sufficient. But we need more.

The sinner must repent of his sins (Lk 13:3). The sinner must verbally confess Christ (Rom 10:10). But the blood of Christ is not applied to the sinner yet. According to Acts 2:38, the blood of Christ does not wash away sins until the sinner is baptized in water for the remission of sins.

To be baptized for any other reason is the wrong reason. If one is baptized to become a Baptist, he was baptized for the wrong reason – because there is no Baptist Church in all of the Bible; certainly baptism would not be for the purpose of making one a member of a church that isn't even mentioned in the Bible.

The Baptist Church does not teach the truth about Jn 3:16. When Baptists hold up posters in the end-zones of football fields with Jn 3:16, they are not saving anyone by doing this. No one is saved by faith alone (Ja 2:24). No one is saved before or without baptism for the remission of sins.

1 Peter 3:21

²¹ There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism ...

Baptism in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Mt 28:19) for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) is the point in time when God takes the blood of Jesus and washes away the sins of the sinner. Those who have never been baptized for the remission of sins are still lost in sin.

This week, we are calling upon any reputable Baptist preacher to defend the Baptist doctrine that salvation occurs either before or without baptism. Will there be any to accept this challenge? We will let you know next week.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.