

Failure to Accept the Obvious

The Views of Mark 16:16

Introduction

1. **In Matthew 3:17, after the baptism of Jesus, God said:**
Matt 3:17 "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."
 2. **At the transfiguration God again says:**
Matt 17:5 "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"
 3. **When Jesus was explaining to the disciples why He spoke in parables He said:**
Matthew 13:13-15
 - A. **The words of this text could certainly apply to ALL words that Jesus put forth to all the people of His day.**
 - 1) **Though the words are there in plain sight, many people simply will not accept that which is obvious.**
 4. **There is a statement of Jesus that is so plain, and yet so controversial.....**
 - A. **One rarely hears it referred to by denominational preachers, whether at their churches, on TV, or on the radio.**
 - B. **And when they do use this statement of Jesus, they feel it necessary to give an explanation that goes against His clear statement.**
- Mark 16:16** "He who believes and is baptized will be saved;but he who does not believe will be condemned."
5. **To illustrate the fact that many people will not accept the obvious, let's take a look at four different views of this verse as is taught by men, and then contrast those views with the one that is plainly taught by Jesus.**

He Who Believes and Is Baptized **Will Not Be Saved**

1. **This first view is one that is held by those who do not profess to be Christians, but it still should be considered.**
2. **Two separate groups hold this view.....**
 - A. ***Atheists* — Do not believe in God, heaven, hell, or salvation of any kind.**
 - B. ***Jews, Muslims, Hindus, etc.* — Believe in God or gods but do not believe that salvation is found in Jesus, and baptism is contrary to God's will.**
3. **Those who accept Jesus and the authority of His apostles (Matt 28:18-20), reject such a view as this.**
 - A. **There is a God who offers salvation:**

1 Tim 2:3-4 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who **desires** all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

B. Salvation does come only through Jesus:

1 Tim 2:5-6 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

NOTE: I doubt if ANY present actually holds to this view, however there are some people that do. It serves to begin to illustrate how some are willing to deny the plain statement of Jesus.

(seeing, they do not see, hearing, they do not hear)

He Who **Does Not Believe** and **Is Not Baptized** Will Be Saved

1. **This particular view is held by what we call “universalists.”**
 - A. **These are individuals that believe that God will save everyone eventually.**
2. **To support their view, they will take hold of and isolate a verse like 1 Tim 2:6:**

1 Tim 2:6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

3. **But those who know the teachings of Christ and Paul reject such a view.**
 - A. **Jesus told that there would be few who would be saved.**

Matt 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."

B. Paul warned of those who would not be saved:

Eph 5:5-7 For this you know, that no fornicator, unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. **Let no one deceive you with empty words**, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not be partakers with them.

NOTE: Most Bible believing, professing Christians, would NEVER treat Mark 16:16 the way the first two views do, but you know what, some DO.

Now let us consider two other views that may hit closer to home.

But remember, these are brought forth in an effort to speak the truth in love; It is hoped that your love of the truth will be such that you will seriously consider what follows (Acts 17:11).

He Who Does Not Believe and Is Baptized Will Be Saved

- 1. This view is held by most who practice “infant baptism.”**
 - A. Infants, incapable of faith, “believing” are baptized (Actually sprinkled, not immersed).**
 - B. They (especially the Catholic religion), indicate by their practice, that faith is not essential to salvation.**
- 2. But the truth of the Bible says:**
 - A. That faith is a necessary prerequisite to baptism and salvation.**

Baptism

Acts 8:35-38 Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

Salvation

Rom 10:9-10 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- 3. Sprinkling or pouring is NOT Bible baptism....**
 - A. The Greek word “baptizo” means to immerse or plunge.**
 - B. That is why it is described as a burial (Rom 6:3-4).**
 - C. Sprinkling or pouring was substituted by man hundreds of years later**

NOTE: I am confident that those who hold to the view of sprinkling infants are honest and sincere. But despite their honest sincerity, they are just as guilty of twisting the words of Jesus as are the atheists, unbelieving Jews, Muslims, Hindus, and Universalists.

He Who Believes and **Is Not** Baptized Will Be Saved

1. **This is the view that is held by the most people in most denominations today.**
2. **This view is held by those who believe in salvation by faith only.**
 - A. **That one is saved BEFORE baptism**
 - B. **That baptism IS NOT essential to salvation**
3. **But Jesus and His apostles clearly taught differently.....**
 - A. **That faith “alone” cannot save**
Matt 7:21; Luke 6:46

Rom 6:17-18 But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that **form of doctrine to which you were delivered (Not “faith only” doctrine - rlt).** And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.

Heb 5:9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

James 2:14, 17, 20, 24, 26; 1 John 2:3-5

B. That baptism IS essential to salvation.

John 3:5; Mark 16:16; Matt 28:18-20; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal 3:26-27; 1 Pet 3:21

NOTE: I believe that those who hold this view are sincere, and in most every case are not knowingly twisting the words of Jesus. Yet, I cannot help but think of such people as Paul thought of his brethren in the flesh:

Rom 10:1-3 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, **have not submitted to the righteousness of God.**

He Who Believes and Is Baptized Will Be Saved

1. **This view takes the words of Jesus at face value....**
 - A. **No explanations are necessary**
 - B. **Jesus says what He means, and means what He says**

2. **We have already seen previously that the Bible teaches....**
 - A. **That one must “believe” (Acts 8:36-37)**
 - B. **That one must be “baptized” in order to have forgiveness of sins**
Acts 2:38; 22:16

Conclusion

1. **Which one of the five views of Mark 16:16 do you hold to?**
 - A. **He who believes and is baptized will not be saved?**
 - B. **He who does not believe and is not baptized will be saved?**
 - C. **He who does not believe and is baptized will be saved?**
 - D. **He who believes and is not baptized will be saved?**
 - E. **He who believes and is baptized will be saved?**
 - 1) **It should be clear that there is only ONE view which is in harmony with Jesus’ words, as there is only one which does not involve “tampering” with the clear statement of Jesus.**

2. **BUT, perhaps, more importantly, with which of these views is your life consistent?**

A. **One may hold intellectually to the fifth and right view....**

- 1) **But act as though they believed the second view**
- 2) **How? By never confessing Christ and being baptized!**

B. **One may hold intellectually to the fifth and right view....**

- 1). **But act as though they believed the third view**
- 2) **How? For though one may have been “baptized” they may not be living the life of faith required of one in Jesus!**

C. **One may hold intellectually to the fifth and right view.....**

- 1) **But act as though they believed the fourth view**
- 2) **How? For while believing in Jesus, they have never submitted to being baptized for the forgiveness of sins!**

3. **Only those who have come to Jesus in faith and ACTED in harmony with His teachings can have the assurance of salvation. The words of the Bible are clear MARK 16:16**

4. **Let us not be guilty of seeing, yet do not see, and hearing, yet do not hear!**

Invitation

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Richard Thetford, January, 2001, (Based on a sermon by Mark Copeland)