

You Don't Have to be Baptized...UNLESS

Introduction:

1. I want to establish the fact this morning that we are all free moral agents and we do not have to do one thing religiously!

A. God is not forcing us to be religious.

Deut 30:19 I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore **choose life**, that both you and your descendants may live;

B. God never used the method of force to get one to serve Him.

Ps 110:3 Your people shall be **volunteers In the day** of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.

Rom 12: I **beseech you** therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

C. Jesus encourages us to come to Him (not force - pleads).

Matt 11:28-30 **Come to Me**, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

1) This was true of Adam and Eve in the beauty of the paradise of earth: God admonished; But He did not force (They made the wrong choice).

2) This was true in the day that Christ walked upon the earth. He did not force, but instead pleaded with wayward Israel.

Matthew 23:37-39

- 3) **The same is true today. God is not forcing us to do one thing religiously; We are still free moral agents!**
 - a. **He calls on us to use our reasoning faculties and to make the wise choice in order for us to live spiritually in this time and in eternity.**

2. Are we making right choices?

Religiously, you don't have to be baptized...UNLESS

1. UNLESS You want to accept the council of God.

Luke 7:29-30 And when all the people heard Him, even the tax collectors justified God, having been baptized with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers rejected the will of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Acts 16:30-34

2. UNLESS You want to accept Christ's blood.

A. The life of the body is in the blood; fleshly and spiritually.

Lev 17:11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.'

1 Corinthians 15:1-4; Romans 6:1-5, 16-17

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

B. My blood flows in this body; Christ's blood flows in His body.

3. UNLESS You want to enter the body of Christ.

1 Cor 12:13-14 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.

Galatians 3:26-29

Col 1:13-14 He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

A. Delivered or carried across into the kingdom, the church

4. UNLESS You want to be in the church of Christ.

Acts 2:37-47

Eph 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

Eph 4:1-6 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

Eph 5:23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

A. We are in Christ's body, or His church (Eph 1:22-23).

5. UNLESS You want forgiveness of sins.

Acts 2:36-41

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

6. UNLESS You want to be saved.

Mark 16:16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

1 Peter 1:22-25

1 Peter 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:

7. UNLESS You want to make Heaven your home.

Rev 22:14 Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Rev 2:7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God." '

Rev 2:10...Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

- A. Heaven is a beautiful place; God is there and is it's maker. The redeemed of all ages shall be there!**

Conclusion:

- 1. Other than that...YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BAPTIZED.**
 - A. I want to encourage everyone here this morning to choose rightly. You don't have to do one thing religiously, but if you don't do God's will, then you have no one to blame but yourself when you spend an eternity in Hell.**
 - B. Choose right — Choose God!**

