

# THE MOMENT OF TRUTH

**“...Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?”-1King 22:16**

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## What Have You Learned Since You Picked Up Your Bible? Test “your Bible Knowledge.”

### 1. Peter and John were arrested because they were:

- a. Healing without a license
- b. Preaching with a license
- c. Preaching in the name of Jesus, that Jesus was raised from the dead
- d. Preaching in their own name

{ Acts 4:1-3 }

### 2 After leaving Rome, Paul planned to go to:

- a. Achaia
- b. Macedonia
- c. Sicily
- d. Spain

{ Romans 15:24, 28 }

### 3. Paul said “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised...”

- a. Corruptible
- b. Mostly corruptible
- c. Incorruptible
- d. As an animal

1 Corinthians 15:55-56}

### 4. The rider named Death was followed by....:

- a. Satan
- b. Michael
- c. Four angels with trumpets
- d. Hades

{ Revelation 6:8 }

-Fred Singleton

**“KNOW NOW THE CERTAINTY OF THE WORDS OF TRUTH” Prov 22:2**

## Question: Does the Bible teach baptism for the dead?



In a recent study with a “Latter Day Saint,” the subject regarding the above question was discussed. The Mormons teach that a living person can be baptized for a deceased relative and use 1 Corinthians 15:29 as their

proof-text. On the surface this doctrine may sound good, and may bring comfort. I have been told that, “Careful genealogical tables are developed so that persons can be baptized for their ancestors as well as for famous persons of the past.” However, I must inform you that this doctrine is nowhere taught in the word of God.

1 Corinthians 15:29 reads. “*Otherwise, what will they do who are baptized for the dead, if the dead do not rise at all? Why then are they baptized for the dead?*” The word “for” means “on behalf of.” The Emphatic Diaglott renders 1 Corinthians 15:29, “*Otherwise what will these do who are being immersed on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why then are they immersed on their behalf?*”

With every passage of Scripture we must always study the context. From the context it can be shown that the apostle Paul is discussing the consequences if there is no resurrection. Among the Corinthians some believed that the resurrection was already past. In verses 1-32, Paul is dealing with this false teaching.

If the dead do not rise, what would be the point of being baptized (Mk 16:16)? Baptism would be of no value, but the word of God teaches that baptism is of great value. Listen to the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 3:21, “*There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.*”

To teach that a person may be baptized for a departed loved one, or anyone, for that matter, clearly contradicts plain teaching of scripture. The Jews on Pentecost, after learning that they were guilty of killing the Christ, asked, “*what shall we do?*” (Acts 2:37). Peter told them, “*Save YOURSELVES...*” (Acts 2:40). The jailor of Acts 16 asked, “*Sirs, what must I do to be saved?*” (Acts 16:30). In the book of Philippians we read, “*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling...;*” (Phil. 2:12-13).

There is not one passage in the Bible where anyone asks, "what must I do to save one who is deceased?" nor is there an example of anyone being baptized for such.

Another point to consider is that the Bible teaches that once a person passes from this life, his eternal destiny is forever sealed. This is clearly taught in **Luke 16:19-31**. Based on these passages of Scripture, if one is unsaved upon death, they cannot later become saved and then cross over to life. So the answer to the above question is, "No!" the Bible does not teach baptism for the dead.  
– Fred Singleton

## The Modern Family



Statistics are not infallible and they can vary in their interpretation. However, in general surveys are useful. There are a couple of recent surveys that are of interest to the Bible believer. One is just in from the Researchers at the University of Chicago. Before I share some of the findings of this survey, allow me to briefly share with you the teaching of the Bible regarding the family.

**A man shall cleave unto his wife.** "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Gen. 2: 24). Notice that this verse is teaching commitment and dedication, not just "shacking up" (many Americans today seem to be unable to accept commitment and responsibility). The marriage is urgently important and must come first, even over mother and father.

**The husband is the head of the family and should be the provider.** The scriptures are plain in the fact of headship (Gen. 3:16, I Cor. 11:3, Eph. 5:22-24). The wife's submission to her husband's rule illustrates the acquiescence of the church to Jesus' headship (Eph. 5:22 ff). The husband is to love (agapao, have her best interest in mind) his wife, as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her (Eph. 5:25ff). The wife is the "keeper of the home" (Tit. 2:5, Prov. 31:10ff). The husband is the chief provider (Gen. 3:17-19, I Tim. 5:8, cf. Prov. 31:10ff).

**The ideal family functions in unison, with God as their controller.** In the matter of headship structure, the children are to be in subjection to their parents (Eph. 6:1-3). Great care is taken to provide spiritual training, discipline, and education for the children (Eph. 6:4). Since God created man and instituted marriage and the family, God is honored and his laws are obeyed. Such is the ideal family.

**The modern family.** Many are proud of the new, modern family in America today. The new family is indeed different from the biblical family.

The University of Chicago survey reveals that the percentage of American households made up of married couples with children dropped from 45% in the early 1970s to just 26% in the 1998 survey. Certainly this figure suggests a significant increase in couples who are now just living together.

According to an article in the **Denver Post**, entitled, "Survey Reveals Major Changes in U.S. Family" (November 24, 1999), "The single-earner families, with young children still present in the household, have become the exception rather than the rule." In many cases, children are basically left home alone. The Bible says, "**The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame,**" (Prov. 29:15).

The survey found, that in 1998, 56% of adults were married, compared with nearly 75% in 1972 (when the survey was first taken). This does not suggest abstinence, but rather that many are not following God's order (I Cor. 7:1ff; Heb. 13:4). I also believe this release is reflective of the modern woman's desire to have a career over a husband and family (I Tim. 2:15, 5:14, 15).

The percentage of children living with single parents rose to 18.2%, versus 4.7% in 1972, according to the survey. A family is to consist of a husband and a wife (Eph. 5:22ff). I realize that circumstances can justifiably and uncontrollably alter the ideal, such as the death of a mate. However, these statistics suggest something more serious. More and more women are electing to have children outside of marriage. Also, many of the increasingly declining percentage, who marry, cannot get along one with another and they experience marriage failure (see Matt. 5:32, 19: 9).

In conclusion, the **Denver Post** states, "Researchers at the University of Chicago said their findings, which were being released today, are yet another sign that the face of the American family has changed" (Ibid). The article continues, "While June Cleaver might not approve, Americans seem to be accepting of what Smith called the 'modern family.'" How sad! (See Prov. 13:15; Gal. 6:7, 8).  
-Don Martin

Answers 1.c 2.d 3.c 4.d