

Test your Bible Knowledge

1. In Athens, Paul explained that God caused Jesus to be raised from the dead to give all men assurance that the:

- a. world would be judged in righteousness by a man He had ordained
- b. powers of God were limitless
- c. apostles were groups of men
- d. penalties of this world would be set aside by God.

2. Paul urged his brethren:

- a. to pass judgment on one another
- b. not to pass judgment on one another
- c. to suspend judgment on one another
- d. to accept judgment from one another

3. Paul :

- a. never saw Jesus
- b. did see Jesus
- c. saw Jesus in a dream
- d. saw Jesus ascending to heaven

Scriptures:

- 1) Acts 17:30-31
- 2) Romans 14:13
- 3) 1 Corinthians 15:8

-Fred Singleton

Private Bible studies available anytime!!

Schedule:

Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM

Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:00 PM

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"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16

**Persuading Men to Obey God
Regarding: Baptism Objection 2**

"Salvation Is placed In the Hands Of Another Man"

The Bible clearly shows that baptism is essential to man's salvation. Those who refuse to accept what the scriptures teach about baptism (Mark 16:15-16) object because it is believed that if it takes a man to baptize another then one would be "placing salvation in the hands of a man." I was once told by an individual that "God needed no help from man to save him, and if you believe that one must be baptized in order to be saved, then you are placing salvation in the hands of a man."

It is true that man is lost in sin and that he cannot save himself by himself alone (Jer. 10:23). Therefore, God has made salvation available to all men (Ti. 2:11). According to the Bible there are two sides that are involved in saving man. 1. *The "divine side in salvation,* 2. *the human side in salvation.*"

By the "*divine side in salvation,*" I mean that there are some things that God has already done for us to make salvation available. 1. God has sent His Son (John 3:16; Luke 19:10). 2. God bestowed His grace (Eph. 2:8-9). 3. The shedding of Jesus' blood (Eph. 1:7). 4. The Holy Spirit revealed God's will to man (Eph. 3:3-5; Rom. 10:16). The divine side has done their part, and now requires that man do his part to complete the saving process.

By "*the human side in salvation,*" I mean that there are some things that God requires of man in order for him to be forgiven of his sins. Man needs to, 1. Hear the gospel (Mt. 17:5; Rom. 10:17). Man must have, 2. Faith in Christ (Jn. 8:24; Jas, 2:24). 3. God requires that man repents of his sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30; Mt. 21:29-31). We must change from the things of the world

(sin) to the things of Christ (righteousness). This is not perfection, but a sincere desire of our will to live right. God requires that man, 4. Confessing Christ (Mt. 10:32; Rom. 10:9; Acts 8:36-38), and 5. Be baptized to wash away sins (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16, 2:38). Baptism is not just "an outward sign of an inward grace," but an act of obedience required of God in order to become a Christian. Finally, God requires of man that they 6. Remain faithful (Acts 2:47; Rev. 2:10; 1 Cor. 15:58; Col. 1:23). When Christians sin (and they do), the Lord requires him to repent, confess his sins and pray for forgiveness (Acts 8:13-22; 1 Jn. 1:9).

The objectors, for the most part, have no objection to the above points, but when it is pointed out that baptism is just as important i.e. equally related to faith, repentance, and confession, there seems to be a problem when the importance of baptism is discussed.

Friend, God has ordained that through the preaching of the gospel people come to saving faith. What if one says, "I can read the Bible and have faith, and therefore have faith without another man being involved"? To have faith another man is involved, or has been involved! Think about this, suppose one could not read the Bible. He would have to have someone read it to him, and that would involve another man. If one could not read and therefore sought someone to read to him, he could get the same person to baptize him.

Now think about this, when we read the Bible we are reading a book which has been translated for us by other men. So we are depending on men to have faith even if we have faith as a result of reading the Bible. And even if one is qualified to read the scriptures in their original languages he is still dependent upon other men because inspired men wrote the original texts. One cannot have faith without other men being involved. Listen to Paul *"...it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe"* (1 Cor. 1:21).

Therefore, those who object to baptism on the ground that one's salvation is in the hands of another man, which the Bible teaches that it is essential to salvation (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 2:38), then one must also object to faith as being essential to salvation to be consistent because both are equally related (1 Cor. 1:21; Act 8:35-38). This is not our plan, but rather God's plan for all mankind (Ps. 3:8). Would you believe and obey it today? - Fred Singleton

Marriage Annulment

Annulment has become very a common place in America today. Some practice annulment without a thought as to what the Bible teaches on this subject. How does the truth found in the Bible relate to annulment? Annulment as applied to marriage means, "The formal declaration that annuls a marriage" (Random House College Dictionary). In addressing this subject, we are at a disadvantage in that annulment, as applied to marriage, is not found in the scriptures. The absence of "annulment" should create great caution.

God's law for marriage. God's law for marriage is set forth in such passages as: Gen. 2: 18-25, Matt. 5: 32, 19: 9, I Cor. 7, and Rom. 7: 1-3. Two people are joined together (bound) for life, this is God's law. Death and adultery are the only contingencies (Rom. 7: 2, Matt. 5: 32, 19: 9). Notice the emphatic warning: **"What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder"** (Matt. 19: 9)

The act of marriage annulment. Your writer freely admits to not having knowledge of all the civil and religious practices which come under the heading of a marriage annulment. Some, I understand, limit annulments to the specific case of vows being exchanged but, for some reason, the marriage is not physically consummated. Others have obtained an annulment through their church years and several children after the marriage ceremony. Beloved, man, no man, whether civil or religious, has the right to dissolve a marriage (only God can dissolve the marriage bond) on grounds other than what God has expressly said! (Rev. 22: 18, 19). Dear reader, God has revealed his will on the subject of marriage. Man needs to desist, his own legislation and rebellion is against God's law (cf. Mk. 7: 1-13, Matt. 19: 3). Man, it seems, is incessantly attempting to circumvent or go around what God has said, marriage is no exception. It is the height of folly for man to believe he can arbitrarily annul what God has established. - Don Martin