



... Heart to Heart ...

“But in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth.” (1 Tim. 3:15) The church of Jesus Christ is identified as *the pillar and support of the truth*. That’s who we are and if we aren’t, then we are no longer the church of Christ. The truth needs to be upheld and not changed despite a changing world.

It’s amazing how so many have little interest in the truth. Listen to how religion teaches people in regard to salvation. The majorities teach and preach that some kind of penitent prayer is how one is saved. “Bow your head and repeat after me this prayer...” or “Just repeat the sinners prayer found in Luke 18:13.” Isn’t it amazing that Paul, when he was Saul, prayed three days and three nights, yet was still lost (Acts 9)! Not until he was confronted with a saving message from God did his position change. Cornelius prayed to God in Acts 10 and he was still lost until Peter taught him the message from the Lord! Praying a prayer to receive the Lord Jesus never saved one soul and won’t save anyone today.

Jesus taught Nicodemus (John 3) that man must have a new birth to enter the kingdom. That new birth wasn’t prayer! Jesus sent His disciples into the world with something called the gospel and He wanted it preached to all creation (Mark 16:15-16). It was to be preached, and responded to, in order to be saved. The response was faith, leading to baptism! In Acts 2, Peter didn’t tell the Jew’s to pray but they needed to **“repent and be baptized into the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of their sins.”** (Acts 2:38) The world was confronted with a gospel message and was told to repent and be baptized into Christ. There is no such thing as a Christian who hasn’t been baptized (immersed in water) into the death of Jesus (Romans. 6).

The church of Christ (literal), the church of the living God, is the pillar and support of the truth. There must be an obedient response to the truth of the gospel message. That’s the **only** way one is saved! Paul told the Romans he was an apostle of Christ Jesus, set apart for preaching the gospel of God, to bring about the obedience of faith to that gospel among the Gentiles (Romans 1:1-5).

People in sin are separated from God, lost eternally. We must tell them the good news of the death of Jesus, teaching them baptism is the only way one enters into His death, where He shed His blood. No matter how religious or sincere they seem, we need to speak the truth, uphold the truth and support the truth or we will forfeit our place in Christ. Think about it!!!

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