

The Bible Hasn't Changed

People are constantly looking for change - for something new and more exciting. Many tend to get bored with doing the same thing over and over again. Something may be great to start with, but eventually the excitement tends to wear off. Places you used to enjoy going to become less interesting because nothing has really changed. No matter how good a restaurant may be, you eventually get tired of eating the same old thing. I am sure the Israelites enjoyed the manna and quails for a time, but later they complained saying, "*our soul loatheth this light bread,*" Numbers 21:5. Many people leave the church because they seek after new and more "exciting" things to do in worship.

There is no doubt, people tend to change, but our God is unchangeable. God said in Malachi 3:6, "*I am the Lord, I change not.*" The Hebrew author said that Jesus Christ is "*the same yesterday, and today and forever,*" Hebrews 13:8. God doesn't change and since His word is truth (John 17:17) neither does His word. The Bible still means what it says!

Most people today will tell you that baptism does not save a person. Yet, Acts 2:38 still says to those who believe in Christ, "*Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.*" Some will argue that the word "for" remission of sins can mean "because of" remission of sins. And with the English language that is true, but the Greek does not allow that variation. The word *eis* always means "unto, looking toward, in order to." If the Holy Spirit wanted you to be baptized because you were already saved, He would have used the Greek word *gar* which means "because," instead of *eis*. Remission of sins cannot be received without repentance and baptism. Also, Ananias said to Saul of Tarsus, "*Arise, and be baptized and wash away thy sins,*" Acts 22:16. Sins are remitted in baptism. Peter very plainly, talking about the water of Noah's flood, said, "*eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us,*" 1 Peter 3:20-21. Jesus Himself said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved,*" Mark 16:16. The word "and" is a conjunctive word requiring both belief and baptism to bring about salvation. You cannot dismiss the fact that the Bible teaches the necessity of baptism for salvation, and that has not changed.

Another popular theory fabricated by man is that we are saved by faith only. One of the popular verses some like to use is Acts 16:31 where Paul told the Philippian jailor, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*" Notice Paul did not say "believe only;" therefore, he did not preach "faith only." One must add to the scriptures to use this text to justify the faith only doctrine. Let us also note "the rest of the story" - Paul baptized them (v. 33) after he taught them. Therefore, as we have just seen in the previous paragraph of this article, they did not receive remission of sins, or salvation, until they were baptized. But the most compelling verse that refutes this doctrine is found in James 2:24, "*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and **not by faith only.***" This is the only

place in the Bible that speaks of “faith only” and it clearly states that it does not justify (make just) a man. God’s word does not change to suit man’s theories!

You also hear a lot about once saved, always saved. In other words, once you become saved, you can never fall from salvation - no matter what you do or how you live. It would be nice if such were true, but the Bible gives a warning in 1 Corinthians 10:12, “*Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.*” One of Kelly’s cousins (a diehard Baptist) said Paul was not talking about a complete fall, but only stumbling. However, the word “wherefore” points us to the previous verses where tens of thousands were destroyed (killed) because of their murmuring and fornication. I would not call that a stumble, and the text certainly does not use that word! How would you explain 2 Peter 2:20-21? “*For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.*” Or Paul writing to the churches of Galatia in Galatians 5:4 saying, “*Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace*”? Since we are saved by grace (Eph 2:8) that would mean they fell from salvation. Why be faithful unto death to receive the crown of life (Revelation 2:10) if we cannot fall from salvation?

Folks, the Bible still means what it says and says what it means. The Bible hasn’t changed. Therefore, stand with the word of God and not the nonsense of men.

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