

WORLD VIDEO BIBLE SCHOOL

Fundamentals of the Faith

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LESSON #22 — HOW DOES ONE CONTACT JESUS' BLOOD (PART 4)

That brings us to the next example, in [Acts] chapter 16, verse 14 and 15. Chapter 16, verse 14 and verse 15. “Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay.’ And she constrained us.” So here we have the wonderful lady by the name of Lydia, one who is accustomed to worshipping God, at a place there in the city of Philippi. Let's go to our chart and recognize the major points seen here. In this particular case of Lydia, there's only one thing that is mentioned in this account, and that is that she was baptized. She was baptized in response to the command of God, as given by the Apostle Paul.

Another account, the next account is found in the same chapter, verses 30-34; verses 30-34. “And he brought them out and said, ‘Sirs, what must I do to be saved?’ So they said, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household.’ Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household.” Here we have the account of the Philippian jailer, as we refer to him. One who had imprisoned, the apostle Paul and Silas. The people had put them there on false charges. What did he do in response to the teaching of the Word of the Lord? Let's go to our chart to notice what he did. The jailer, the Philippian jailer, we know that he believed. Now we have drawn a conclusion here that he repented. It is not actually stated in the text that he had repented. But our conclusion is based upon the fact that he had washed the stripes, or the lashes, of the apostle Paul and Silas, indicating that he felt that the people had mistreated Paul and Silas. We draw the conclusion from that, that he had repented of his part in that. And then he was baptized. He was baptized, and as a result of his believing and repenting and being baptized, he rejoiced. He was filled with joy in his heart, just as the Ethiopian was, because he knew that he had done what God said.

The next account, in the 18th chapter, and verse 8. Chapter 18, verse 8. “Then Crispus, the ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his household. And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.” So here we have some people in the city of Corinth in the first century. Let's look at what they did in response to the message of salvation. The Corinthians believed, and they were baptized. We know that they were saved, because God tells us that in 1 Corinthians chapter 15, verses 1 and following, where God says that they believed and obeyed the gospel. And as a result of their obedience to the gospel, they were saved from their sins.

All right, that brings us to the next account found in the 19th chapter, verses 1-5. Chapter 19, verses 1-5. “And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ So they said to him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’ And he said to them, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ So they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’ Then Paul said, ‘John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.’ When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” So here we have some people in the city of Ephesus, who had been baptized with John's baptism. Apparently, after the time of the cross and the time of the establishment of the church, these people had been baptized with the wrong baptism, instead of the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ. They had been baptized with John's baptism, which was in effect before that. So Paul taught them the truth, and they believe that truth, and they were baptized. So let's go and see what happened to those in Ephesus, what they did in response to the message. The only thing again that we have mentioned in this particular account is baptism. They were baptized. And we know from Ephesians 1, verse 7, that they were redeemed, and they were forgiven of their sins through the blood of Jesus.

Then the final account that we'll look at, in the 22nd chapter, Acts chapter 22, and verse 16. This is the account of the apostle Paul, or Saul, as he was known then. 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.” Ananias had been sent to the Apostle Paul. Paul had seen that vision on the road to Damascus, and believed in the Lord and asked the Lord, “Lord, what should I do?” And the Lord told him, “You go and wait in Damascus, and someone will tell you what you should do.” And he stayed there three days and prayed and fasted. If anyone was a believer, who had repented of their sins, and was praying, and according to the religious world, was saved, Paul's the man. But when Ananias came to him, what did he say? He said, “Why are you waiting? You need to arise and be baptized, washing away your sins.” Let's go and look at the chart and see what we have recorded here concerning the Apostle Paul. Again, the only thing that we have mentioned is his baptism. And that his sins were washed away by his obedience to the gospel, including his being baptized into Christ.

In the last several classes, we've been studying: How is it that man expresses his faith in such a way that we contact the saving, cleansing blood of Jesus? And we've been looking at the accounts of the Gospel where Jesus gave what we call the Great Commission to His apostles. And we've been looking at how that commission, how that command, was implemented by those men in the first century church.

Now let's go to our chart, and let's make some summary points concerning what we've studied on this crucially important subject: what we must do in order to be saved? In the top part of our chart, we saw the accounts of the gospel, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, and what our Lord and Savior Jesus the Christ commanded His apostles to do. And we noticed that there were different things that were recorded in each one of these accounts, and that it was necessary for us to get the complete teaching of the Lord, to combine all of the things that were said by the Lord on this subject. And when we combined all these things, we saw that Jesus said to go, teach and preach the gospel to every creature, to every person, and that they

were to begin at Jerusalem. Then He said, that those who believe and repent, and are baptized, will be saved, will receive the remission of their sins, that forgiveness of their sins. And that the apostles and those that followed were to continue to teach all things that Jesus commanded us. We also recognized that in Matthew chapter 10, verse 32 and 33, our Lord said, that we must be willing to confess Him before men. If we do that, He will confess us before His Father, Who is in heaven.

Now we want to point out at this point, there's a vast difference between what Jesus taught on this subject, and what is taught by men in the religious world today. Why is that difference existing? Simply because men have not chosen to follow what the Lord said in His Word. And we must reject those teachings, those men, for they are teaching that which is false. And this is such a critically important subject. We must accept what Jesus taught.

And then we looked at the bottom half of our chart, and we studied what those men did in response to our Lord's command. We looked at 10 cases in the book of Acts, the history book of the New Testament. Where we studied what people did, what was preached, what was taught, and what was done in response to the teaching of the inspired apostles and prophets of Christ. We looked at those 10 accounts. And again, we noticed that there were different things that were emphasized in each one of those accounts. And to obtain the Lord's teaching on all of these points, or combine all of these points, it's critically important for us to put together all of the accounts and determine what was the total picture. What did the Lord stress?

We saw that in Romans 10, verse 17, that each of these people heard the gospel, the gospel was preached to them. Then we noticed that belief was essential to salvation. That repentance was something that must be done on the part of man. That confession of Christ as Lord was something that was needed. And that baptism was something that was required by those men who were preaching under the Great Commission, the great command given by our Lord. And we saw results, sins were forgiven, they were added to the church, they rejoice because they knew that they were forgiven, they were saved, they were redeemed, sins were washed away.

Notice, the only thing that is mentioned in every one of these accounts, is baptism. Isn't that amazing? Men exclude baptism. 90% or more of the religious world teaches that baptism is not essential for salvation. Yet, these men who lived in the time of our Lord, and received the instructions from the Lord, every account showed that baptism was essential to salvation. Again, there is a difference between what the Lord and His followers taught in the first century, and what is being taught in the religious world today. We must accept what the Lord taught, and not what men taught on this very crucially important subject.

So we hope that seeing this in chart form, putting all of these accounts together, and comparing what the Lord taught with what is taught in the religious world, will help us to see the importance of sticking closely to what God says in His Word. And not accepting what is taught by men. Let me ask you something. If you cannot trust what people are teaching to you on this subject, what we must do in order to receive the forgiveness of sins, how can you trust anything else that is said by religious leaders in those religious groups who teach that which is contrary to the Scripture, on this essential point? I don't believe that you can trust them. And

they have demonstrated that in the fact that they have changed the soul-saving message of Christ, from what He preached and taught, to what they believe and think.

We would take this one step further and think: Okay, we've seen what the Lord said in the Gospel accounts. We've seen what was recorded in the history book of the New Testament, the book of Acts. If this teaching were true, we would expect to find the same thing in the epistles, the letters from the inspired apostles and prophets. And exactly the same message was preached and taught and recorded in those epistles. For example, in the Hebrew letter in Hebrews 11, verse 6, the Hebrew writer says, "Without faith, it is impossible to please Him." That we must believe in God and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. So faith is essential. We come over to 2 Corinthians, chapter 7, verse 9 and 10, and God tells us that repentance is essential, and that repentance is not godly sorrow. It is based upon godly sorrow, and it leads to repentance. So repentance is something different from sorrow. And then we come to Romans chapter 10, verse 9 and 10, and lo and behold, God says that we must confess Jesus with our mouth, if we want to be saved. We must confess our belief that He is the Lord, our Master, our Owner, our Ruler. So, and when we come to 1 Peter, chapter three, verse 20 and 21, we see that baptism is something that is essential in order to be saved.

So the same message is found, whether it's in the Gospel accounts, or in the book of Acts, the history book of the New Testament, or the epistles, the letters from the inspired apostles and prophets of Christ, the message is the same. But that message is different from what is taught in the religious world. We must reject that which is taught in the religious world. We must help our friends and neighbors to see the truth of this very important subject.