



# Sound Doctrine

## Addressing Common Misunderstandings

### *Review of the Plan of Salvation*

Hear - Romans 10:17  
Believe - Hebrews 11:6  
Repent - Luke 13:3  
Confess - Romans 10:9, 1 Timothy 6:12  
Be Baptized - Acts 2:38, 1 Peter 3:21

### *The Importance of Sound Doctrine*

#### **2 Timothy 4:1-5**

- The Word of God is the source of sound doctrine.
- People will turn away from it to what they prefer to hear.

#### **Galatians 1:8-9**

- There is no other gospel than what was first proclaimed.
- Strong warning is given to not stray from it.

### *Refuting Doctrinal Errors*

#### *Infant Baptism*

It is accepted practice in many churches to baptize infants. Baptism, however, is a response of personal faith (Colossians 2:12), an appeal of the conscience (1 Peter 3:21) and is done following repentance (Acts 2:38). An infant can do none of these. The doctrine of "Original Sin" is proven false by Ezekiel 18:20. Each person is responsible for his own actions and will be judged accordingly. Babies are born sinless and will be saved if they die.

#### *The "Sinner's Prayer"*

This is also known as "praying Jesus into your heart" or "accepting Christ". Some may refer to Revelation 3:20, which describes Jesus knocking at the door of the heart. Examining this scripture in context shows that it does not teach how to become a Christian and be saved, but how to come back to God after becoming lukewarm. It is addressed to disciples who have already responded to Christ.

#### *"Belief Alone"*

Many use Romans 10:9 to claim that baptism is unnecessary and all person needs to do is "just believe" to be saved. Here, Paul is addressing the problem of the Israelites' unbelief that Jesus was the Christ. Later in the passage Paul says that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Romans 10:13). This is done at baptism (Acts 22:16).

#### *"The Thief on the Cross"*

The thief on the cross next to Jesus was not baptized. Some think this diminishes the importance of baptism because Jesus promised him entrance into paradise (Luke 23:43). While on earth Jesus expressed his power to forgive sins (Matthew 9:2-6). After the cross, baptism is the way to share in his death, burial and resurrection and so be saved (Romans 6:2-4). This is the promise and plan for all whom God now calls (Acts 2:39).

#### *"Baptism is a Work"*

The central role of faith in conversion is clear. Baptism is never characterized in the Bible as a "work." Colossians 2:12 teaches we are saved by faith in the working of God at baptism. 1 Peter 3:21 says that baptism saves through the "pledge of a good conscience", which is also an expression of faith.

#### *"Baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace"*

This description is used to explain that baptism is something that can be done after one is already saved. It is not found in the Bible. Romans 6:2-4 states that baptism is an actual participation in the death, burial and resurrection of Christ, not merely a sign or symbol. If baptism is when one is born again (John 3:5) and when sins are forgiven (Acts 2:38, 22:16) then it is the point of salvation. This is part of the message that should be accepted by one being baptized (Acts 2:41).

### **Before Next Time**

Read Matthew 7:15-23.

Write what this teaches about dealing with false teachers.