

## Session #2 – Key Beliefs of Second and How do I become a Christian?

### SIX Staples of Stone-Campbell Churches:

#### I. Six Defining Beliefs

##### 1. The **Bible** is our only authority.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 – “**All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.**”

- Some churches or denominations might choose to place tradition or culture or even human reason on an equal footing with God’s Word.
- At Second Church, we believe **God’s Word is our source of authority.**
- Remember one of the slogans of the RM we looked at last week: “***Where the Bible speaks, we speak. Where the Bible is silent, we are silent.***”

##### 2. Saved only by the **Grace of God.**

Ephesians 2:8-9 – “**It is by grace you have been saved, through faith, and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast.**”

Romans 5:8 – “**But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.**”

- I cannot **EARN** my salvation no matter how hard I might try!
- As a result of God’s amazing gift of **GRACE**, I should feel inspiration to live a life of holiness that is pleasing to God.

##### 3. **Baptism** by immersion as part of the salvation process.

Mark 16:16 – “**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.**”

Acts 2:38 – “**Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”**

- Acts 2 – the Day of Pentecost – Peter preaches an incredible sermon and is finished, but the people are moved. They are “cut to the heart” and want to find salvation in Jesus. Peter could have said a lot of different things; he said, “***Repent and be baptized every one of you for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.***”

##### 4. Weekly observation of the **Lord’s Supper.**

Mark 14:22-24 – “**While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, ‘Take it, this is my body.’ Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and offered it to them, and they all**

drank from it. 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,' he said to them."

Acts 20:7 – "On the first day of the week we came together to break bread."

\*\* *This is a descriptive passage of scripture, not a prescriptive text.*

5. **Every Member Ministry** (the priesthood of all believers)

Revelation 1:5b-6 – "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen."

\*\* *If you are a Christ Follower, you are a Minister, so where are you serving?*

6. **Independence** of the local congregation (no denominational oversight)

Nowhere is a denominational hierarchy seen in the New Testament. Stone-Campbell churches do not participate in denominational structures. Local congregations are independent.

**How Do I Become a Follower of Jesus Christ?**

- John 14:6 – "Jesus said, 'I am the way, truth, and the life – no one comes to the Father except through me.'"
- Acts 4:12 – "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."
- **Jesus is the answer!**

A, B, C, D to Jesus – Bob Russell

**A – Admit** that you have *sinned* and separated yourself from God.

Romans 3:23 – "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

**B – Believe** in Jesus Christ as your personal *Savior*.

John 3:16 – "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

**C – Confess** that Jesus is the *Lord* of your Life.

Romans 10:9 – "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."

**D – Demonstrate** your allegiance to Christ by *repenting* of sin and *being baptized*.

Romans 6:3-5 – "Don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection."

## Session #2 – Questions

#1 – How difficult is it in 2020 America to allow God’s Word to truly be the authority for our church and for our lives?

Have you ever found yourself at a crossroad between what God’s Word teaches about something that is in conflict with what culture or human reason might seem to promote?

#2 – Have you ever found yourself attempting to “earn” your salvation via good works?

What is the balance between being saved by grace through faith in Jesus and having a passion and making it a priority to serve the Lord in Christian service/ministry?

#3 – How did the teaching on baptism by immersion as part of the salvation process connect with your understanding of baptism?

Do you have questions about baptism?

Second Church is hosting baptism classes on Sundays, March 22 and April 5, at noon in Hallelujah Hall.

#4 – How crucial is the weekly ritual of the Lord’s Supper in your walk with Jesus?

Are there any weaknesses or drawbacks to receiving Communion each Sunday?

#5 – Every Member Ministry is staple #5. How is Second Church doing with this concept and implementation?

#6 – Do you believe no denominational hierarchy is a positive or a negative?

#7 – In 2020 America, is SIN still a big deal?

Is it a challenge to help people living outside the grace of God that SIN is a big deal for them and their eternal destiny?

#8 – It cannot be understated how important true BELIEF is in the life of a Christ follower. Can you remember when you first truly believed?

What obstacles are realities in our modern world that impact BELIEF in Jesus?

#9 – What role does public CONFESSION of Christ play in the life of an unbeliever?

#10 – Repentance is an important step in becoming a follower of Jesus. What does true repentance look like in the life of someone living outside the grace of God?

What questions do you have about baptism?

How does Romans 6:1-5 help you understand what happens when a baptism by immersion takes place?