

THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

March 22, 2009

Adam's Response To A Baptist Pastor--2

Question 2- *“If a ‘Church of Christ’ elder refuses to baptize me, will I be lost until I can find one who will? Do I need Jesus and a Campbellite ‘Preacher’ in order to be saved? If I do, then Jesus is not the only Mediator (1 Timothy 2:5) and the Holy Spirit is not the only Administrator (1 Corinthians 12:13) of salvation--the ‘Church of Christ’ preacher is necessary to salvation for he is performing a saving act on men when he baptizes me! Is this not blasphemy against Jesus and the Holy Ghost?”*

It is generally a very good idea to get your facts and information straight before you take on the task of writing a tract that you intend for many to read. Mr. Martin seems to be having a little difficulty making up his mind whether a person needs to be baptized by a “Church of Christ” elder or a “Campbellite preacher.” *(We will not spend much time discussing the term “Campbellite.” A favorite claim of the Baptist denomination is that the “Church of Christ” was created by a man named Alexander Campbell. If Alexander Campbell created a church then that church is nothing more than a man made denomination and has absolutely no right to exist. Simply ask any person who refers to you as a “Campbellite” to name one doctrine you believe or one action you practice because Alexander Campbell told you to do so, or did so himself. Thus far, none have been forthcoming.)* I have “grown up in the church” and have yet to come across any preacher or elder who argues that a person’s baptism is not valid *unless* it is administered by one of them. *Baptism is not* about the one administering it.

I find it very interesting that Mr. Martin claims, as many Baptists do, that to be baptized for the remission of one’s sins makes the one administering the baptism a “Mediator” for that person’s salvation. Where in the entire Bible is such a thing even hinted at? Jesus is the only Mediator between God and man because the Bible says that He is. However, the Bible says absolutely nothing about a person taking Christ’s place as Mediator, or joining Him as Mediator, when he administers baptism. Instead, we must rely upon Mr. Martin and those like him to insert that information where it cannot be found. Scripture makes it quite clear that Deity is doing the operating in baptism (Colossians 2:11-13; Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 3:21).

As far as the Holy Spirit being the only “Administrator” of salvation, I must admit that I am not wholly sure that I know what Mr. Martin is getting at. Since he did not explain it and I have no intention of putting words in his mouth, let me simply explain the verse that he used. 1 Corinthians 12:13 says, **“For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--**

and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” “In one Spirit” means under the influence of one Spirit. That influence is found within the pages of Scripture.

Here is something else for folks to chew on: why is it that the person who is baptizing becomes a Mediator, but the one who delivers the Word, which *must* be believed if a person is ever to be saved, doesn't? Mr. Martin claims that the “Church of Christ preacher” is performing a saving act on someone when he baptizes them. In John 6:29 Jesus said, **“This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”** So if belief is a work that God requires, and Mr. Martin’s preaching causes someone to believe, hasn’t Mr. Martin performed a “saving act” as well? If one is a “saving act” why isn’t the other? The truth is that the preacher of God’s Word (Romans 10:14-15) no more replaces or joins Christ as Mediator than the one who administers baptism for the remission of sins. The simple fact is that such an argument requires man to insert into Scripture what God never put there. Obviously, that is not a business in which any of us needs to be involved (Revelation 22:18).

I hope that you are finding this series beneficial thus far. If you have any thoughts or comments on the questions or the answers that I have given, please feel free to bring it to my attention.

Passage to Remember

“After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. So Jesus said to the Twelve, ‘Do you want to go away as well?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life, and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God.’” John 6:66-69

In Need of Prayers	General Information
<p>Let’s continue to remember Ron and Sharon Tirey as they both recover.</p> <p>Jackie Litmer has been struggling mightily with sickness during these early stages of her pregnancy.</p> <p>Mildred Collins (David’s mother) will have Thyroid surgery tomorrow in Jackson, Tennessee.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Thank You!</p> <p>Thanks to everyone who came out yesterday morning to help with cleaning and maintenance on the building.</p>	<p>The informational meeting for the entire congregation will be today at 5. Please make your plans to attend.</p> <p>Correction!!! In last week’s bulletin I made a substantial error. In the second to last paragraph you will find: “However, this movement certainly did create the churches of Christ.” I accidentally deleted the word “not.” Sorry about that! Thank you to all who brought the mistake to my attention.</p> <p>Note: I maintain a webpage where spiritual discussion takes place. The address is captivetochrist.blogspot.com. Perhaps you may find material there beneficial to your spiritual growth.</p>

