

## BAPTISM THAT SAVES

Many people have denied that Bible baptism has anything to do with justification or salvation because it is considered a work of human merit. However, baptism is not a work of human merit. It may be observed, in the first place, that the person being baptized is mostly passive in the act and actually does little if any work. Baptism, in reality is an act of faith. One is baptized because they believe that Jesus is truly the Son of God. And, they realize that baptism is a divine command given by God's Son to which they must respond in order to express their faith. Baptism, therefore, is the proper and required expression of our faith which results in our being put into Christ (Gal. 3:26-27). When we are baptized into Him, we are justified or saved by faith, because our faith has moved us to be baptized. But, until we submit ourselves to be baptized, our faith is not such that will justify, because we have not completed our obedience to Him who is our Savior (Heb. 5:8-9). A true believer will not deny the need to obey the Lord. Let us not be lost, because of obstinate quibbling.

CAB

## AMONG HIS OWN RELATIVES

But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." (Mark 6:4 NKJV)

The occasion of the statement above was His rejection by those of Nazareth, the town of His youth (cf Luke 4:16, 24).

Christians who have learned to their bewilderment the truth expressed in this maxim are innumerable. Frequent, indeed, is the reenactment of a scene similar to the following: A person learns the truth and is amazed by the simplicity and perfect harmony of God's revelation of His plan for man's redemption. He sees clearly, that the Lord has the same plan of salvation for all people, that He adds all who obey Him to the same church, that His Word alone will lead to heaven. He gladly obeys. His happiness is enhanced by the fact that not only will he be serving his master, but he can present the opportunity to his friends and relatives, who are near and dear to him, when he reveals to them his new found knowledge.

To his great dismay and anxiety, his news is not received as he had expected. In fact, he may be rebuked harshly for even suggesting they need any salvation. "After all", they may exclaim, "Those in one's own family should not get so uppity, they think they can change us." They may even tell him he has become unloving and judgmental, and that he should realize they are satisfied with what they are! The participants in this scene may be a parent, a child, a brother, a sister, a husband, or a wife. The closer the relationship, the more perplexing the rejection, and the deeper the distress it causes to the Christian.

Many who were not sufficiently rooted and grounded, have not been able to overcome this spurning, and have gone back to walk no more with the Lord. Please read carefully these words of Jesus, and be thou faithful unto death.

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. <sup>35</sup>For I have come to *'set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law'*; <sup>36</sup>and *'a man's enemies will be those of his own household.'* <sup>37</sup>He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. (Matt. 10:34-37)

Remember Jesus also was rejected. He is our example. (1 Pet 2:21)  
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