DEBATE NOTES

TRUTH

Vs.

ERROR

FAITH OR BAPTISM?

WHAT IS THE LAST CONDITION FOR REMISSION OF SINS?

By W. N. Jackson
DEBATE NOTES: THE LAST CONDITION FOR REMISSION OF SINS

FIRST PROPOSITION: "The Scriptures teach that faith in Christ is the LAST condition for the remission of past alien sins."

SECOND PROPOSITION: "The Scriptures teach that water baptism administered to a believing penitent is the LAST condition for remission of past alien sins."

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INTRODUCTORY:

These discussion notes are presented with the hope that gospel preachers, and especially those just beginning their work, will find them helpful. Ours could not be called the "age of debates," and we're sorry that's so. One cannot but note that those periods in the church's history when debates were held with all manner of error were also periods of great Bible knowledge on the part of those in the church, and great hosts of conversions from denominationalism. May that time return, and may it be soon!

W.N. JACKSON
Church of Christ
500 S. Clifton
Fulton, Miss. 38843
FIRST PROPOSITION: "The Scriptures teach that faith in Christ is the LAST condition for the remission of past alien sins."

(Note error's insistence on this wording - the LAST condition - to avoid the charge of teaching FAITH ONLY, or FAITH ALONE. It didn't help, for the two positions are the same.

ERROR'S POINTS

FAITH IN CHRIST - not a mere point of faith - exercised in the heart, with all the heart, brings salvation.

Acts 10:43 All the prophets bore witness that whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

About 21 prophets and servants of God bear this out:

Moses: Abraham believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for righteousness. (Gen. 15:6)

Paul: Romans 4:2-5, says the same v.3 - same as Gen.15:6 v.5 - not to the one who works, but to the believer!

David: Cited as one who said that God imputes righteousness without works, v.6 v.9-11 Faith reckoned to Abraham for righteousness. v.16 Of faith, and therefore not of works!

Rom. 1:16 To everyone that believeth.... :17 The just shall live by faith.

Rom. 5:1 Justified by faith! Peace with God! :5 Love of God in the heart! :2-5 Believer has grace, hope, and can rejoice!

Ps. 116:10 I believed...have spoken. 2 Cor. 4:13 Believed...has spirit of faith. Rom. 10:9,10 With heart man believes; confession made unto his salvation

We're glad he doesn't believe in a point-of-faith salvation ("faith alone, faith only"), but we'll see that he does, after all! He, and the "faith only" advocates shove repentance in front of it, and then say it's by "faith alone." He denies he believes that, but we'll show he does.

On Acts 10:43, Gen.15:6 and Romans 4:2-5, we'll gladly stipulate that:

1) Faith is essential. (Heb.11:6)
2) Faith in Christ is essential. (John 8:24)
3) Both Old and New Testaments do speak of that salvation which will be through faith.
4) Faith in Christ is A condition
5) Faith in Christ precedes the remission of sins.

BUT THE POINT UNDER DISCUSSION IS:

Faith as the LAST condition!

Citing passages on faith won't do it; must show faith as the LAST condition.

Again, citing passages on faith will not prove the point; no one denies the essentiality of faith. (Heb.11:6)

His many verses say nothing of one's needing to repent, yet that doesn't rule out repentance as a condition for salvation. (Acts 2:38 17:30)

When my opponent has finished citing all of these, he still will not have proven faith as the LAST condition!

That faith is necessary, and that it is stated truthfully in Romans 1, Romans 5, Psalm 116, 2 Corinthians and Romans 10 is not in question.
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<td>John 6:47 Believeth..everlasting life.</td>
<td>condemned? If not ALL, then what works are condemned, and what works</td>
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<td>Opponent doesn't understand that the word &quot;faith&quot; is used in the Bible to</td>
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<td>Gal.2:20 Live by faith</td>
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<td>2 Cor.5:7 Walk by faith</td>
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<td>Heb.11:13 Die in faith</td>
<td>The question is: What is the content of faith? The conduct of faith? The</td>
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<td>Heb.11 is a chapter full of men and women of faith; all of them made a</td>
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<td>his point about him.</td>
<td>list of varied responses - their faith acted! Their faith obeyed!</td>
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<td>That doesn't change the principle of how faith works. Abraham was in the</td>
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<td>Rom.10:9,10 Man believes in his heart for salvation.</td>
<td>favor of God, Gen.12, well before the citation in Gen.15:6, yet that didn't</td>
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<td>Acts 8:37 Believe with the heart, and with ALL THE HEART!</td>
<td>keep my opponent from using it! Abraham in God's favor in Gen. 12, and yet my</td>
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<td>opponent uses the text, Rom.4:5, concerning God's justifying &quot;THE UNGODLY!&quot;</td>
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<td>No denial of the necessity of belief; But that context shows that men lost</td>
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<td>(v.1) need to obey the gospel (v.16). To accomplish that, gospel preaching</td>
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<td>is done, that they may hear, and believe, and OBEY! (Mark 16:15,16)</td>
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<td>That OBEDIENCE is the process of &quot;faith&quot; we're speaking of now!</td>
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<td>It was that belief with ALL THE HEART that was confessed, and the object of</td>
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<td>it was to be baptized! That was what he asked for (v.36) and that quality</td>
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<td>of faith had to be there in order for him to be baptized. Does God say that</td>
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<td>belief with ALL THE HEART must be there to do what is not necessary?</td>
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I'M SPEAKING IN BEHALF OF THAT FAITH THAT FOLLOWS REPENTANCE

One hears the gospel, believes the truth of it, is convicted in his heart, and then with faith — confidence, trust, relies on the Lord with the heart, WITH ALL THE HEART, and AT THAT MOMENT salvation comes!!

Acts 20:21 Repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ!

Mark 1:15 John's message: "Repent, and believe the gospel."

Faith is the LAST condition, and on my side are about 21 prophets and spokesmen of old, John the Baptist, Jesus Christ, Paul and Silas and all the New Testament preachers!

Luke 7:47-49 The woman's sins, which were many, were forgiven; Christ said, "THY FAITH hath saved thee!" (v.50)

" Doesn't Jesus have as much power as He ever had, right here tonight? He said He had ALL POWER! (Matt.28:18) Can you tell me in what way He is limited? I

It would be interesting to see you take a man in TOTAL IGNORANCE of God and His Will and cause him to repent without some faith before it that caused him to see that he needed to repent!

There's godly sorrow behind one's repentance! (2 Cor.7:10) Paul is pointing to his words (in the epistle, Scripture (v.8) that has brought about their sorrow! That Word, when believed, has produced faith (Rom.10:17) and it came before their repenting.

Besides, my opponent has tripped himself, just now. He says that one hears the gospel and BELIEVES the truth of it, and then is convicted!! He has surrendered, for by his own statement he has one believing before being convicted in his heart!

Salvation, AT THAT MOMENT? He has said he didn't believe in a point-of-faith salvation; now it comes "AT THAT MOMENT!" That will be for him to prove! We'll see.

Acts 20:21 Jews, first mentioned here, were not without knowledge of God, but needed to repent in that area where they had not been obedient — obedient to the Son.

Mark 1:15 Jews already believed in God, but had been impenitent in areas pertaining to preparedness for the Son.

Besides, these hardly sustain my opponent's views on an alien's repenting before faith; does sanctification or confession come before faith, yet see 2 Thess.2:13 and Rom.10:9?

We sincerely wish our opponent to note how her faith worked in washing, drying, kissing and anointing! (vs.44-46)

We have no quarrel with the Lord's actions while here on earth, in person, dealing with men — He could speak forgiveness to whom he would!

We, though, are this side of His cross, His ascension, and His giving
thank God that He and Christ have ALL POWER, right here tonight!"
TRUTH CONTINUES:

God bore witness (Acts 15:8) to the fact Peter had just mentioned: that Gentiles should hear the gospel and believe (v.7) and this is what the Holy Spirit's fall­
ing upon them showed to the Jews!

True, their hearts were purified by faith - an obedient, working faith - as is the case with all the obedient. The gospel is given for the OBEDIENCE OF FAITH! (Rom.16:26)

This same spokesman, Peter, states that man is purified in OBEYING THE TRUTH (1 Pet.1:22); these in Cornelius' household were thus purified, and they were not obedient to the truth until they had obeyed the command to be baptized.

This is either a TYPICAL case of conversion, in all points like every other case, or it is a NON-TYPICAL case. We submit it is a typical case in all aspects pertaining to the preach­ing of the Word and man making an obedient response; but it is non­typical in the instance of the out­pouring of the Holy Spirit, since that was for purpose of convincing skeptical Jews.

The salvation was to come by hear­ing WORDS (Acts 11:14); Peter was to TELL them what to do (Acts 10:6); they assembled to HEAR PETER (v.33); Peter SPAKE unto them (v.34) that WORD which could save (vs.36-37), and this is in perfect accord with Mark 16:15,16 ; Rom. 1:16 and James 1:21 !

Gospel obedience saved them, just as it saves all! This record stands with all others in Acts.

ERROR CONTINUES:

God never commands the alien sinner to be baptized!

John 6:40 Believeth - Life!
John 20:30,31 Written, that ye may believe!

TRUTH REPLIES:

Mark 16:15,16 covers them all; in Acts 2:38 and 10:48 are the commands.

Opponent still cites passages on belief, which are not denied. He has yet to show that belief is the LAST condition.

Truth will yet have to show him just what constitutes belief!

CHART # 1

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<td>THE PROCESS OF SALVATION...........JUSTIFIED, LIVE BY FAITH...Rom.5:1 1 Pet.1:9</td>
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<td>THE DEVIL'S.................CONFESS, BELIEVE........Matt.8:29 James 2:19</td>
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<td>WITHOUT WORKS (of God's)................DEAD FAITH........James 2:14,17,20-26</td>
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<td>WITHOUT CONFESSION.......................YET, CALLED &quot;BELIEF&quot;......John 12:42 1 Jn.4:3</td>
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<td>MEN OF THE DEVIL.......................YET, CALLED &quot;BELIEF&quot;......John 8:31,44</td>
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<td>SAVING FAITH.........................OBEIDENT, WORKING FAITH....Gal.5:6 Rom.16:26</td>
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DIFFERENT USAGES OF "FAITH"
QUESTIONS TRUTH ASKS OF ERROR

TRUTH'S QUESTIONS

1) Can your position on faith be stated as faith "alone" or faith "only?"

2) Is one saved by a living faith or a dead faith?

3) Must the faith that saves be an obedient faith?

4) Is man saved by a working, or a non-working faith?

5) Do you accept that use of speech where one part of the saving process is used for the whole?

6) If man is saved by faith, is he also saved by the blood of Christ (Rom.5:9), by grace (Eph.2:8) and by the Word (James 1:21)?

7) If man is saved by the blood, grace, the Word, etc., and it is still a being saved by faith, then why could not baptism be a part of that being saved by faith?

8) Can one, upon having faith, willfully fly in the face of God and refuse to be baptized, and still go to Heaven?

9) If one can find a passage stating that confession is unto salvation, would that mean that confession is the LAST condition for remission of sins?

TRUTH'S FURTHER REMARKS:

No. 3 - Opponent stresses obedient faith, but confines the obedience to the heart. Obedience from the heart, though (Rom.6:17), has baptism as part of it. (Rom.6:3-7)

No. 4 - Belief itself is a work. (Jno.6:29)

No. 5 - 1 Pet.1:9, which opponent has cited, tells of the END of faith; then, a BEGINNING took place—and there is the "process."

ERROR'S REPLIES

No, there are other conditions that bring the person to the place where he can trust in the Lord.

Do you take confession and take to the baptism a person with living faith or dead faith?

Yes, an obedient faith, in Christ, in the heart, with the heart, and with all the heart.

Rom.4:5 - to him that worketh not, but believeth!

Will you give a scripture where God calls for a process? God doesn't need any process!

My proposition says man is saved by faith, as the last condition; he trusts in the Lord and the blood is applied, and he is cleansed!

If God can change a mortal body in the twinkling of an eye into an immortal body, He doesn't need a process to save a soul!

Many souls are in Heaven now whose natural body never knew baptism!

Did the thief on the cross go to Heaven without being baptized?

You cite me a scripture where confession is a condition of salvation! No one can confess anything until they possess it! 1 John 4:2 says that the spirit that confesseth is of God!

No. 7 - Nevertheless, God did use a process in redemption, running from previous ages to the Christian era (Eph.3:3-6).

No. 8 - All those approved of God in the time before baptism was given as a requirement didn't need it; we are speaking of the law of the Great Commission, requiring baptism — can man refuse it without penalty? Certain ones condemned in Luke 7:29,30 for doing so!
No. 9 - My opponent cited the passage: Romans 10:10 (see p.1,2) He cites it, and now refuses it!
Now he states that you have to possess Christ before you can confess Him!
Mr. Opponent, that's pretty close to blasphemy, since we read of devils who confessed that He was the Son of God! (Mark 5:7) Did these demons possess the Lord, since they confessed Him? And, by their confession are they then seen to be OF GOD, as by your use of 1 John 4:2?

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<td>If baptism is essential, how does an alien get rid of the sin of unbelief? An unbeliever does not go into the waters of baptism!</td>
<td>Opponent is confused on &quot;alien,&quot; using &quot;alien&quot; as the same as &quot;heart of unbelief.&quot; One can be an &quot;alien&quot; before God, away from God; Yet the Word has an impact upon him and belief of that Word dispels the unbelief he's had.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does your candidate have the sin of unbelief in his heart when he goes into the water to have his sins washed away?</td>
<td>One thus comes to baptism believing the gospel message (Mark 16:15,16); he's a penitent believer; he's repenting of his unbelief, and now taking the steps whereby the penalty of it will be removed.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You believe the person has no active faith until you get him into the waters of baptism!</td>
<td>One must have active faith in order to come to baptism, for that baptism is to be preceded by faith, repentance and confession!</td>
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BAPTISM - AND WORKS

Matt. 3:15 Baptism to fulfil righteousness.
It is a righteous act!

One cannot be baptized without the presence and work and will of man! If baptism is essential, then you have to depend on some man. There is one Mediator, Christ! (1 Tim. 2:5)

Put the other fellow in there, and you've added another party, and have to have some human agency, some man to work for you.

Opponent says baptism is an act of righteousness, then a work of man! I thought all man's righteousness was as "filthy rags" in God's sight! (Isa. 64:6)

It takes faith in the heart, with the heart and with ALL the heart before baptism; how could one have any more in being baptized?
love his neighbor! (v.39) How could he, since he has already been told to love God with ALL his heart? Opponent fails here.

One who loves God with ALL his heart has a heart ready and open to do ALL God requires, up to and through baptism without a quibble, and then on through a faithful life, with his faith working through love (Gal.5:6)

Friends, Christ settled that matter of baptism, asking his enemies if it was from HEAVEN OR MAN (Matt.21:25). At least his enemies didn't make the mistake of my opponent - they didn't even try to reply!

Opponent, is baptism a work OF MAN or a work OF GOD? Tell us! You state that it is a righteous act, and yet that it's of man, and yet you baptize people for some purpose. Now, JUST WHO is doing WORKS OF MAN ?? ?? ?

EXPLANATION OF CHART NO.1 (p.5)

TRUTH'S POINTS

Opponent does not understand the various usages of the word "faith" in the Bible.

Eph.4:4 and Jude 3 are examples of its use referring to "the body of teaching, body of doctrine."

Rom.5:1 and 1 Peter 1:9 refer to the entire process by which one is saved - that's why Peter refers to the "end of your faith."

Devils confessed the Lord (Matt.8:29), and James says the devils believe. (James 2:19) Are they saved???

A DEAD faith is referred to by James, (2:20,26). Is this "faith" the same as the faith by which we are saved, Rom. 5:1 ?? Obviously not!

John 12:42 refers to some who believed, but would not confess the Lord; yet we are told that confession of Christ is essential! (Matt.10:32,33 1 John 4:2,3)

In John 8:31 the Lord speaks to those who "believed on him," and then in rebuke of them said they were "of your father the Devil." (v.44) Is this the faith resulting in a home in Heaven?

Then, there is an obedient faith, a working faith, a faith motivated by love, a faith that confesses Christ, and does His will! (Gal.5:6 Rom.16:26)

Opponent jumbles them all together - grabbing the word "faith" at will and using it to his own pleasure.
TRUTH'S POINTS

That last point doesn't help opponent at all. He's already used the woman in Luke 7:44, 50. Jesus, in v. 47, refers to her "much love," and before he tells her she is saved, by her faith. Opponent, if she was born of God by her love, your doctrine has her saved before the Lord speaks it to her!

CHART # 2

FINDING THE ALIEN

BEFORE THE CROSS?

JEW

Not aliens . . . Eph. 2:12

Had the oracles . . . Rom. 3:2

Christ's own . . John 1:11

House of Israel . . Matt. 15:24

Seed of Abraham . . John 8:37

Luke 1:73

AFTER THE CROSS

ALL MEN Mark 16:15

Aliens . . . Eph. 2:16

Need Word . . . Rom. 1:16

If Obey . . . 2 Thess. 1:8

If Christ's . . . Gal. 3:29

EXPLANATION OF CHART NO. 2

TRUTH'S POINTS

Opponent will not find the alien of his proposition on the other side of the cross.

The Jews were not aliens; they were in covenant relationship with God, having the oracles. (Rom. 3:2)

The Gentiles were the aliens, all along. (Eph. 2:12)

The Lord was sent to the lost sheep of Israel, His own, those who had the oracles of God and were in the covenant relationship of God.

If opponent wants to find an alien, then let him come to this side of the cross, when ALL MEN are subject to the New Covenant, the Gospel of Christ.

ERROR'S REPLIES

This man's view says that when the Lord died He made every living Jew an alien! He's wrong about that! Nicodemus wasn't an alien! (John 3)

John didn't think the Jews were children of God, for he called them a "generation of vipers!" (Matt. 3:7)

Peter says that God put no difference between us (the Jews) and them (the Gentiles), purifying their hearts by faith. (Acts 15:9)
Here, this side of the cross, where we all are, ALL MEN must obey the gospel (Rom.1:16 Mark 16:15,16); IF they obey the gospel, then they are Christ's. (2 Thess.1:8 Gal.3:29)

TRUTH'S COMMENTS ON ERROR'S REPLIES

1) Opponent made no arguments against the points on Chart # 2.

2) He refers to Nicodemus not being an alien. True, he was on the other side of the cross. Error reinforces truth's point here.

3) John referred to the behavior of some who came to his baptism. His commenting on the sinfulness of their behavior didn't change the fact that they, the Jews, were in covenant relationship with God.

4) Peter's comment was in regard to the events of Acts 10, well this side of the cross. Naturally, under the gospel, all men of whatever race or nationality are subject to the gospel, and God justifies the obedient, making no difference between them! (Gal.3:28,29)

ERROR'S REMARKS CONTINUE

Reference is still being made to this "process." How long does this "process" last? Does it include going to church, visiting the sick, the Lord's Supper?

This man baptizes alien sinners!

You take an unbeliever into the water!

Can't you believe in the heart without an act of obedience?

TRUTH'S RESPONSE

Opponent described a "process" in his stating the order of things earlier. (see p.3)

Peter refers to children of God, those begotten (v.3), and to the faith which keeps them unto the salvation ready to be revealed IN THE LAST TIME! (v.5)

Yes, that faith here spoken of includes all that responsive faith should do until one's dying day!

Man guilty of sin, and separated from God, yes. The idea of an alien being baptized is strange to opponent only because he's been conditioned by his denominational teaching that saved ones are to be baptized!

I do not. I take a penitent believer, by Acts 2:37,38 and Mark 16:15,16

Belief in the heart is obedience, (Rom.10:9,10) but one cannot believe in his heart and let that be the end of it. Those pricked in their hearts were told to repent and be baptized! (Acts 2:37,38)
**ERROR'S POINTS**

Confessing Christ is not essential to salvation. A good work, a good fruit, yes!

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**TRUTH'S ANSWERS**

Yet opponent cited it, Rom.10:10 (see p.1): confession "unto salvation." In the same contradiction here as on baptism, whether OF MAN or OF GOD!

We'll now show him the connection between faith and baptism, since he can see none. God will tell him!

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**CHART # 3**

**WHAT'S THE CONNECTION?**

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<tr>
<td>&quot;...the ANSWER OF A GOOD CONSCIENCE TOWARD GOD.&quot;</td>
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<td>&quot;....BURIED...... RISEN......THROUGH FAITH IN THE OPERATION OF GOD.&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1 Peter 3:21) (Col.2:12)

JAILOR, Acts 16: v.31- not a believer v.34- a believer WHAT WENT ON IN BETWEEN??

---

**EXPLANATION OF CHART NO.3**

**TRUTH'S POINTS**

These two passages simply show that one does not have a good conscience, a good heart, is not right in God's sight unless baptized. Indeed, Col.2:12 shows that it is a lack of faith in God's operation if one were to spurn, reject or slam baptism!

Also, since opponent has trouble showing us a true believer, in the Bible, we can get it from the inspired writer Luke. The jailor was in unbelief, hence is told to believe; is preached to from the Word that he might have basis for belief (v.32) shows penitence in washing Paul's stripes and then is baptized. (v.33)

Then, he is called A BELIEVER! - Not by me, not by members of the Church of the Lord, but by God!

I'll take Luke's definition, won't you?

---

**ERROR'S REPLIES**

When the jailor asks his question, members of the Church of Christ would have told him to be baptized! (v.30)

The Church of Christ says the man had no faith until baptized! Is faith and baptism equivalent? Is it?

On Col.2:12, note verse 11. He speaks of a "circumcision made without hands," without human agency!

John 1:31. John was sent to baptize, but Jesus didn't baptize! (John 4:2) Baptism is a working by hands of a man; the operation of God is without hands and in the heart of a person!
Again, Col.2:12 says, "Buried WITH Him," not in order to GET WITH Him!

On 1 Peter 3:21, note that it says baptism "doth now save us," THE LIKE FIGURE! Baptism does not put away the filth of the flesh; it is A FIGURE! It saves in a FIGURE.

It is not a REAL salvation, but a PICTORIAL salvation. Peter said it saves "us" - He's writing to children of God, not alien sinners!

Who was baptized in Bible times? Fruit-bearers! Saved people!

John baptized fruit-bearers!

Accepting what the Bible says, then we know a "corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit!"

In Gal.3:26,27 - children of God BY FAITH!

FOR, "as many of YOU" (children of God!) as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ! Children of God are baptized!

If you baptize an alien sinners, lost, condemned, children of the Devil, who are you working for?

Christ is WITH us in all we do in obedience; baptism is in his name, by his power. (Acts 2:38)

The salvation is illustrated by the figure, but that doesn't mean the items used in being saved are not real. The ark was real, the flood waters were real, the men were real, the doom was real. So, the point on baptism is true!

Think of what was used, "in a figure," to illustrate some aspect of Christ: a door, food, water, shepherd, etc. Does that mean He is not a REAL SAVIOR because some "figures" were used?

Peter was indeed writing to saved people, and wasn't speaking of current action they were to take; rather, referring to baptism they HAD received when they were in disobedience; he was illustrating it by using the disobedient men of Noah's time. (v.19,20)

Opponent trips up here: He has said those Jews before the cross were ALIENS, and by his terms CORRUPT. Yet, they "bore good fruit," he says. Thought a tree corrupted couldn't do that!

Again, on Gal.3:27: He has made much of being baptized WITH the Lord, Col.2:12, not to "GET WITH" Him; now, from his own mouth we hear the passage that baptism is to GET INTO CHRIST! They were not in Christ before baptism, then! Thank you, Mr. Opponent!

I baptize aliens (not having entered into God's nation, family) who are leaving a sinful country, giving it all up. I am working for God and against Satan, in taking children from him and giving them to God!

If you, Mr. Opponent, take children of the Devil, falsely teach them
Regarding Acts 2:38 - Alien sinners are without Christ without hope without God condemned blind in bondage ungodly unbelieving

v.41 - but these were glad receivers of the Word, not aliens!

These baptized were not alien sinners, but believers! Nothing close to alien sinners!

Do you baptize one who loves God or hates God? One who believes or is a non-believer? One who has confessed Christ or has not confessed Christ?

"Whosoever confesseth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God."

Rom.10:10 - The confession is not essential to salvation. What if a fellow couldn't talk? Confession is not in order to obtain salvation, but to declare you've already been saved!

God saves in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye!

For what purpose was Paul sent? 1 Cor. 1:17 NOT TO BAPTIZE, BUT TO PREACH!

Acts 26:18 Sent to open eyes, turn from darkness to light, from Satan to God; not sent to baptize, so baptism can't accomplish any of this.

and make them believe they're the children of God when they are not, etc., in this deception just who are you working for? (See 2 Cor. 4:2 and 11:13-15)

He's still confused on "alien."

He's confusing those "AWAY FROM GOD," not having obeyed the Will of God, with attitude toward the truth.

v.41 shows an attitude toward the truth that results in obeying it. An alien, whoever he is, can have a proper attitude toward the truth - that's the purpose in exposing him to the truth through teaching! Of course these believed the truth they'd heard; that's why they asked for direction (v.37) and they were told to be baptized FOR the remission of sins! (v.38)

I baptize one who is taught, and believes the gospel truth and wants to obey; he believes that truth, turns away from sin, confesses the Christ and then is baptized.

Opponent no doubt is referring to 1 John 4:2, though mis-quoting it. But let's use his citation: In Mark 5:7 the devils confess that Jesus is the Son of God. Are those devils born of God, sir?

Make up your mind on whether the confession is necessary. You have quoted Rom.10:9,10 and now deny it! Were those devils in Mark 5:7 confessing that they had been saved?

Find the passage to that effect, sir! You're borrowing language from 1 Cor.15:52, having to do with the change of a mortal body into an immortal body at the resurrection!

Great Commission sends men out to preach (Mark 16:15) and the baptism is a consequence of the preaching. That's what Paul is saying; he is not saying that baptism is not a necessary thing, for he himself is the one who tells us the most about it in the New Testament.
**ERROR'S POINTS**

Acts 15:9 God purifies the heart by faith!

Did the thief on the cross go to Heaven without baptism?

You have not shown baptism of the alien for remission of sins? Where is the passage stressing "aliens" to be baptized?

---

**TRUTH'S ANSWERS**

It is in the case of Paul that we learn baptism washes away sin (Acts 22:16) and from Paul that we learn that baptism puts one into Christ (Gal.3:27), puts one into the death of Christ, into newness of life, into freedom from sin. (Rom.6:3-7)

True, and Acts shows how it is done: by obeying the demands of the gospel. Peter says the soul is purified in obeying the truth. (1 Pet.1:22)

Opponent still takes a passage on faith and ignores the kind of faith, the action of faith, the response of faith.

I don't know if he was baptized or not. Matt.3:5,6 tells of John's great success in baptizing, and the thief may have been in the number. At any rate, he died before the law of the Great Commission requiring belief AND baptism. (Mark 16:15,16)

Opponent has, to the end of our discussion on the proposition, not said anything other than that men are saved by faith, by belief - and WE ALL AGREE!

He has NOT shown that faith is the LAST condition!

We have shown that one is that man accepted of God and blessed as a believer when he has obeyed:

Gal.5:6 Faith works through love!

Rom.16:26 Faith is to be obedient!

It is also noted that error's proposition mentions the "alien," and he produced no passage spelling out both "alien" and "faith" within the same context.
SECOND PROPOSITION: "The Scriptures teach that water baptism administered to a believing penitent is the LAST condition for remission of past alien sins."

TRUTH'S POINTS

In defining terms, since my opponent has had difficulty understanding the term "alien," we will let Mr. Thayer help him: "belonging to another, not one's own, foreign, strange," etc. (Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament, p.29)

An alien, then, is one away from God, not in God's family, a stranger to God, one not in agreement with God as respects a covenant relationship.

See again CHART # 2, p.9

On Acts 2:38, opponent says those who were commanded to repent and be baptized were not aliens.

He asks concerning those in John's day who were baptized, and makes the point that they were not aliens, but were fruit-bearers.

This turns against opponent, for he has already argued against me when I made the point that those in John's audience were not aliens. Which is his view????

Opponent is confusing "alien" still, and has a picture of the alien with no ability to act in any manner in moving toward obeying God. That view of an alien is the product of opponent's own mind! Yet, he teaches repentance before faith, and has the alien doing the good work of turning from God! He is inconsistent!

Though my opponent views as a real horror baptizing one who is lost, condemned, guilty, without hope, etc., IT IS NOT STRANGE if the proposition is correct. By his view it is awful to think of taking a lost person into baptism; by the Bible's view, as we'll see, it is entirely proper and more: IS REQUIRED!

My opponent will accept very little on this side of the cross. He'll pick up words as he needs them, all along, (faith, love, blood, etc) but will run back to the other side of the cross for about all he needs! He'll bend and twist, but to his own destruction (2 Pet.3:16)

Opponent, will you not recognize that on THIS SIDE of the cross some things are demanded which were not called for by God in earlier times? As of the cross, and
TRUTH'S POINTS

the preaching in Acts 2, ALL ARE IN
THE ALIENS' POSITION - Jews, and the
ones "afar off", the Gentiles. (v.39)

Opponent has cited Rom.10:12 - God
made "no difference between the Jew
and the Greek." And, what was Paul's
subject there: Lost Jews (v.1) and
their need to obey the gospel (v.16)!
And, the same gospel for all - all in
the whole world -Mark 16:15,16- and
our point still stands: as of the
cross, all men are in the position of
the alien! All need to obey!

Opponent picks up a statement here or
there and strikes out for Heaven! It
will not work! The nearest thing to
his approach is that of disobedient
Saul who insisted that "I have obeyed
the voice of the Lord!" (1 Sam.15:20)

The Lord commanded that repentance
and remission of sins was to be pro-
claimed to ALL NATIONS - thus to Jew
and Greek - in Luke 24:47. And we
have seen that it began in Acts 2.

Opponent still has trouble in rightly dividing the word of God! He should know
that John came to "make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:17) Men
who lived faithfully under the Law, and men who responded faithfully to John, as
even with the Gentiles who did "by nature the things contained in the law" (Rom.
2:14) were acceptable to God. Christ's dying did not make alien sinners of men
who lived obediently under a law approved of God - His dying paid the blood
price for their sins (Heb.9:15). But as of the cross, His New Will went into
effect, and those then living under Judaism or some Gentile system were expected
to obey that New Will! Only those obedient to John, and then faithful to the
Lord, having been baptized of John's baptism (and this includes the 120) were
acceptable unto Him. All others had to obey! Has opponent never seriously read
his Bible?

Indeed, we stated that faith is essential at the outset of the discussion. We
said it was not the last condition! Faith is behind all that one does within the
Lord's will (Gal.5:6); we're discussing the LAST CONDITION before remission of
sins!

Our position is clear: we believe the WHOLE COUNSEL OF GOD! (Acts 20:27) This is
Paul's statement to the Ephesian elders, and wonder if Paul ever taught anything
not found in Matthew, Mark, Luke or John? Will opponent join in with me in taking
the whole counsel of God? I will! If I find that faith is essential, then I'll
accept that; if I find that repenting of sins is essential, then I'll accept that;
if I find that confession is necessary, then I'll accept that; and if the Captain
of our Salvation (Heb.2:10) commands baptism, then I'll accept that also! I'll
not pick and choose. I'll not evade and dodge and bend and twist. Will he?
### Chart # 4

**From Acts:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EVENT</th>
<th>FAITH</th>
<th>REPENTANCE</th>
<th>CONFESSION</th>
<th>BAPTISM</th>
<th>RESULTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pentecost</td>
<td>2:37</td>
<td>v.38</td>
<td></td>
<td>v.38</td>
<td>Saved, v.41-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samaritans</td>
<td>8:12</td>
<td>v.11,12</td>
<td></td>
<td>v.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eunuch</td>
<td>8:28,35</td>
<td>v.36</td>
<td>v.37</td>
<td>v.38</td>
<td>Rejoiced, v.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saul</td>
<td>9:6 22:14</td>
<td>9:9</td>
<td>v.6,11</td>
<td>v.18</td>
<td>Sins washed away, 22:16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cornelius</td>
<td>10:6,33</td>
<td>11:18</td>
<td></td>
<td>v.47-8</td>
<td>Saved, 11:14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lydia</td>
<td>16:14</td>
<td></td>
<td>v.15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jailer</td>
<td>16:31,32</td>
<td>v.33</td>
<td></td>
<td>v.33</td>
<td>Saved, v.31-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corinthians</td>
<td>18:8</td>
<td></td>
<td>v.8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Truth's Explanation of Chart**

**Acts 2:** Opponent may want to have some discussion of "eis" in Acts 2:38. It is translated, often, "for" - Thayer says it appears 1591 times with 64 different usages. Always, though, its meaning will be that which the context demands, and in keeping with parallel instances of the same action taking place.

In Acts 2:36-37, these who heard and believed (for they asked instructions) were told to repent and be baptized and for the remission of sins. Wonder why they weren't told to have faith? If faith is the last condition, as opponent says, when did these come to faith?

On the chart, note that baptism is the item that God never fails to mention, and note that it was for sin's remission (2:38) and to wash away sins (22:16). We see also that it was after baptism that the eunuch rejoiced (8:39) and after baptism that God calls the jailor "a believer." (16:34)

Granted, not every item is mentioned, specifically, in each case. However, if God commands, even once, an item in connection with the remission of sins, then that item is necessary, and more than necessary, we can know the item took place, whether mentioned each time or not! For all of that, isn't it striking that God did spell out baptism each and every time? He knew men would deny it, refuse it, and try to fashion plans of their own without baptism!

These in Acts 2 had their Lord and Christ proclaimed to them (v.14-36); they were receiving the Word and thus faith was being created (Rom.10:17) They asked for instructions and were told to repent and be baptized for sin's remission. (v.38) They were obedient because they gladly received the Word spoken to them! (v.41) v.47 - The Lord added them to His church!

In Acts 8, Philip was preaching the kingdom and the name of Christ, and these in v.12 believed and were baptized. They did what those on Pentecost did.
In Acts 8 also, we find the eunuch reading the scriptures, and apparently not as an infidel, for he asked concerning the meaning of the passage (v.34). Philip began right there and preached unto him Jesus (v.35) and the man asked to be baptized! (v.36) Wonder how he knew about it? It wasn't there in Isaiah 53! We couldn't get our opponent to acknowledge that sometimes ONE WORD stands to include the WHOLE PROCESS of things. Here's an instance. Preaching Jesus included baptism! Upon hearing him confess Christ as Lord, he was baptized and then he went on his way rejoicing! (v.37-39) This is parallel to the other two accounts.

By the way, Philip told him he had to believe with ALL HIS HEART (v.37). Philip didn't know belief with ALL THE HEART didn't leave room for any other thing, did he? (pp.7-8 of these notes)

In Acts 9 and 22, the conversion of Saul. In 9:6 Saul asks concerning what he is to do. Opponent would have told him, "Nothing!" Saul at this time believes, for he's SEEN the Lord (22:14). He is three days neither eating or drinking (9:9) - here is a penitent man! - and spends his time in prayer (9:11). Ananias came in, sent by God mind you, and told him to arise and "be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (22:16) The point is this: at what time does the blood of Christ work to cleanse the person? Here we're told.

In Acts 10, Cornelius and his house to hear what was commanded Peter BY GOD (v.33). What took place was to later be described as simply "repentance unto life." (11:18) They, even after God sent tongue-speaking power upon them to convince unbelieving Jews that Gentiles were to be saved as well as Jews, were COMMANDED to be baptized. (v.47-8) The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16) and the words spoken were thus designed to save. (11:14) The words spoken were those commanded by God, and one command was to be baptized. This stands parallel with the others in showing baptism is for remission of, or washing away of, sins.

In Acts 16, Lydia's heart was opened by the Lord just as all hearts are to be opened, and just as those were on Pentecost (2:37) and that is by PREACHING OF THE WORD! (v.14) The weapon of God is the Word (Heb.4:12). When taught, this woman was baptized. This stands parallel to the others.

In the case of the jailor, Acts 16, he asks his question in v.30, and Paul's answer is given in v.31. Is this the end of it all...end of context, end of chapter? Opponent would have you think so! But read more: they spoke the Word to him (v.32), and he was baptized (v.33) and then, in v.34, he is called "a believer" by God! Baptism is the last step in this man's response to the gospel and for his salvation! This case stands parallel to the others!

Acts 18:8 records, in one verse, the case of the Corinthians' salvation. It also stands parallel to the others, though every step is not mentioned in this setting. Whatever God requires is required of all, so this stands parallel to the rest.

On the chart, note again that baptism is mention EVERY TIME, and it is the LAST CONDITION met before the benefits, salvation -remission of sins, are received!

ERROR'S POINTS REGARDING THE CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acts 2:36 These were pricked in their heart (v.37); in v.41 were told they were GLAD RECEIVERS OF THE WORD! Were not alien sinners, then. Do you mean that alien sinners can GLADLY receive the Word?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TRUTH'S RESPONSE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opponent is still confused on &quot;alien.&quot; He has manufactured an &quot;alien&quot; - one who is hardened, deprived in his very soul; but &quot;alien&quot; denotes the person's citizenship, belonging, location, etc. One is an alien because he is away from God, and he is still away from God</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

-18-
As to Paul, he was sent by God to turn men from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto God (Acts 26:18), and THEN he was told to be baptized. Paul was a believer before he was baptized, for God wouldn't send an unsaved man to do that work!

Baptism doesn't wash away sins; in Rev. 7:14 we're told that the blood of the Lamb does the washing.

In Acts 10, these heard the gospel (v. 34-44), believed it, received the Holy Ghost, spoke in tongues and magnified God, and their hearts were made pure before anything said about baptism.

In Acts 16, did the jailor have faith before he was baptized? I challenge you to say he didn't have faith before he was baptized!

Jesus said, in Matt. 24:14 that "this gospel shall be preached in all the world...unto all nations, and then shall the end come." There is but ONE GOSPEL. Are you preaching the one spoken of in Matt. 24?

God never says "Thy baptism has saved thee," and it's a rotten doctrine that

until he completes the procedures God has ordained to make him a citizen, a child. Mr. Opponent, any who receive the Word, spiritually, must do so with gladness!

ILL: One in our land is an "alien" due to not being a U.S. citizen; he may be longing to be a citizen, filling out forms to become one, completing every requirement, etc., but he's still an alien until the procedures have been filled.

Opponent has his time-table topsy-turvy. Acts 26:18 records God's intentions as to Paul's work, but AFTER he had obeyed. Read v.19, where Paul says, "WHEREUPON....I was not DIS-OBEIDENT...." (So, he was not an unsaved man going to saved others; he obeyed God, and then went to do that work.)

Opponent confuses the obedient act, baptism, with power in the water; the blood cleanses (Eph. 1:7 Rom. 5:9), but WHERE??? This opponent of mine says "at faith;" God says, at BAPTISM!

From Acts 10 opponent jumps to Acts 15:9, where Peter is referring to the entire occurrence at Cornelius' house, and opponent implies these were cleansed by faith before baptism! The whole process was their being cleansed and by faith! Peter says purification comes in obedience to the truth, (1 Peter 1:22); these had not obeyed the truth until they had been baptized!

Any Word he heard receptively produced faith (Rom. 10:17), but faith alone cannot save (James 2:24,26) He was not called a believer in the sense of God recognizing him as such until he obeyed - even in baptism! (v.34)

Yes, I am, for I am this side of the Great Commission ( Mk 16 Matt.28) commanding it unto all the world. My opponent, in finding everything back before Acts 2, needs to remember that Christ's ministry was not to all of men, all nations, but to Israel only! (Matt.10:5,6 15:24)

Opponent needs to take this up with the Lord, who authored the passages
ERROR'S POINTS | TRUTH'S REPLIES
--- | ---
deceives your soul, and you'll find Hell if you die in that condition! | he denies (2 Tim.3:16,17). God says those who refused baptism rejected His-God's-counsel. (Lk. 7:29-30) Opponent's argument is with the Lord, and with Peter, in 1 Pet.3:21!

Luke 7:50 - "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace!" Where does it say, "Thy baptism hath saved thee?"

Salvation is by grace, and not of any works. Baptism is an act of righteousness (Matt.3:15); it is a good work. We are to show good works (Mt.5:16), are created for good works (Eph.2:10) and are to work righteousness (Acts 10:35). But John baptized by manual labor, and you have to have the presence, will and work of another human in being baptized. This is Catholicism!

1 Pet.3:21 - "Baptism doth also now save us!" Again, take it up with the Lord, opponent! Your disagreement is with Him!

(See pp.7-8) Opponent is still in difficulty as to works. All this about "manual labor" is of his own making to support ideas of his own: that in salvation, there's nothing for man to DO! We're not pleading for any work OF MAN, of MAN'S MERIT, but we are pleading for the works OF GOD! (John 6:29 Lk 7:29-30)

And, this is not Catholicism, for these passages on obeying the Lord, and on being baptized preceded Catholicism's origin by hundreds of years!

ANYBODY in the world can seek the Lord, repent of sin, trust in Him and be then saved with an everlasting salvation, and he doesn't need to be baptized!

Yes, seek Him! Call upon Him! (Isa.55:6) And Acts 2:21-47 and Rom.10:1,13-16 both show that to seek Him, call upon Him, is to respond to the gospel of Christ, and that includes baptism (Acts 2:37-38,41,47). This is why Saul was told to be baptized, "calling upon the name of the Lord!" (Acts 22:16)

TRUTH'S QUESTIONS TO ERROR

1) Is baptism a work of man's righteousness, as condemned in Ephesians 2:8-9?

2) In Acts 2, when these were told to "Repent and be baptized," (v.38), where does faith fit in? If they didn't have faith, where is it that they're told to have it? If they did have faith, they were already saved by your position, and saved BEFORE REPENTANCE! Explain this, please?

3) Must one be baptized to enter into Heaven? Must one be baptized to enter into the Missionary Baptist Church? Is it easier to enter into Heaven than into the Missionary Baptist Church?

4) Why should one be in the Missionary Baptist Church if already saved and suited for Heaven? Is there a reason?
Opponent asks if I baptize alien sinners. If my proposition is true, then I do; if he has objection, he needs to take it up with the Lord! Opponent is still forcing "alien" to mean one totally without any belief, incapable of any penitence. (See pp.15-16)

Saving power is in the gospel (Rom.1:16) and the remission comes when one obeys the gospel. Baptism is that final step, bringing one into newness of life (Rom.6:4), into Christ (Gal.3:27), into salvation. (1 Pet.3:21)

I now place two cards upon the wall, and ask my opponent, as his next speech begins, to take down the one HE DOES NOT BELIEVE!

| He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. (Mark 16:16) | He that believeth and is NOT baptized shall be saved! |

Note on Chart # 4 (p.17) the item in LAST place, in all instances of conversion: BAPTISM!

Concerning Saul, the Lord is identified to him (Acts 9:5), he asks what needs to be done (v.6), and at this time he is NOT a disbeliever in the Lord's identity, power, might. Opponent would then pronounce him saved! But 3 days later (v.9), in penitence and prayer (v.11), he's told to be baptized washing away his sins (Acts 22:16). Opponent says "AT THAT MOMENT!" God says, "Three days later!" Who will you believe?

Paul is the very best witness to what happened in his case, not opponent! And, Paul was inspired!

And notice the PROCESS here: Saul has now believed the Christ, has confessed that, is certainly penitent, and three days later has remission of sins when baptized into Christ! Here is that PROCESS opponent can't seem to find! Opponent wants it all at faith, and yes, IN A MOMENT!

Opponent is not dealing with the Chart on "Cases of Conversion." Come on, Sir!

I don't baptize alien sinners, but those who have repented, have called on the Lord, have believed with all the heart! God says the sin of unbelief condemns! (John 3:18) I don't baptize condemned men!

Saving grace and power is through repentance and faith in the Son of God, and not in baptism! God saves men when they meet these terms; at that point they satisfy God, and they are saved AT THAT MOMENT!

In Bible times, those baptized were: fruit-bearers (Mt.3:8), glad receivers of the Word (Acts 2:41), children of God (Gal.3:26,27). These are not alien sinners!
CHART # 5

ACTS 2:38

1. For remission .......King James, Moffatt, Wesley, Lenski, Faire
2. Unto remission.......American Standard, Emphasized, Broadus, American Bible Union
4. So that will be forgiven.....Today's English Version, Wm Barclay
5. To Have forgiveness.Knox, Chas. Williams, J.B. Phillips
6. In order to have......Goodspeed
7. With a view to.......Nestle-Marshall

TRUTH'S COMMENTS

These translations, versions and commentaries are cited to show how opponent not only disagrees with God, the inspired penmen, but with virtually the entire world of New Testament scholarship, including some associated with the religious name he wears. Broadus - a Baptist; American Bible Union, a Baptist translation; Goodspeed, a Baptist, the T.E.V., translated by a Baptist! That should mean something!

ERROR REPLIES

Now he's given up on the Bible! He's turned to the scholars rather than the scriptures. He eliminated the Old Testament, because he knows he can't find his doctrine there!

There was a plan of redemption from the time that Jesus died to the Day of Pentecost, and baptism wasn't a part of it. There was redemption in the Old Testament, and baptism wasn't a part of it!

In Rom.6:3-5, one is baptized WITH Christ, not in order to get with Him! No difference either before or after. You're not baptized in order to get with Christ. Gal.3:26 - They were children of God by faith; then, baptism didn't make them children!

CHART # 6

AN "UNIMPORTANT" THING?

From Heaven......Matt.21:25
God's Counsel....Luke 7:30
TO BE SAVED......Mark 16:16
Remit Sins.......Acts 2:38
Wash Away Sins...Acts 22:16
In His Name......1 Cor.1:13-15

Into Him, His Death...Rom.6:3
With Him..............Rom.6:4
For New Life.........Rom.6:4
Kill Old Man of Sin...Rom.6:6
Put on Christ........Gal.3:27
Saves Us...............1 Pet.3:21

94 N.T.References to Baptism...c.85 referring to water baptism!

UNIMPORTANT?
ERROR'S QUESTIONS:

1. Do you baptize a believer, a lover of God, one who bears good fruit and who has confessed the Lord?

2. Do you baptize one who has died to sin or one who is dead in sin?

3. When one has heard the gospel, been taught, believed, repented, made the good confession, as you teach, is he still an alien sinner?

4. When one responds to your preaching, hears your message, comes down the aisle, makes the good confession, is he bearing good fruit?

5. Can a corrupt tree - an alien - bear good fruit?

6. If one believes before repentance, when does he repent of his sin of unbelief?

TRUTH'S ANSWERS:

1. I baptize one who believes in God (Heb.11:6), who now loves God (for faith works through love (Gal.5:6) and who, as good ground (Lk.8:15) reacts to the good Word and bears the good fruit of obedience, and one who has confessed the Lord. (Rom.10:10)

2. Those dead in sin are made alive (Eph.2:1) and Rom.6:3-5 tells of that new life coming into being upon scriptural baptism. I teach and practice that, that the old body of sin MIGHT BE destroyed. (Rom.6:6)

3. Doing none of those things has taken him from the alien world and given him citizenship in the family of God. One can't be there until added there BY THE LORD (Acts 2:47) and baptism must take place before that's done. No one leaves the alien state until they obey the gospel. (Rom.1:16)

4. Indeed, so! Hearing is GOOD, and repenting is GOOD, and by your proposition you have one doing good before faith! Luke 8:15 -the effects of the Word in good and honest hearts brings about the good response. Still not in the family of God until obedience is completed!

5. Opponent is the one characterizing an alien as being so corrupt that he cannot make any good move in God's direction. He denied that the Jews weren't aliens; yet John demanded that these Jews - aliens by opponent's view - bear the good fruit. (Matt.3:8 Luke 3:11-14)

6. And, if one repents before he believes how did he come to know he needed to repent at all? Current belief, by God's Word (Rom.10:17) causes one to recognize his condition of unbelief and therefore he has a basis for repentance. Saul believed from his youth (Phil.3:5) yet still had to repent for points of unbelief! (1 Tim.1:13)
ERROR'S POINTS

7. Is the following your position?:
Belief plus repentance plus confession plus baptism equals salvation?

8. If you baptize alien sinners, corrupt trees, lost, blind and condemned sinners and children of the devil, are you working for God or the devil?

9. If I baptize those who have confessed, those who are fruit-bearers, disciples of the Lord, glad receivers of the Word, born again children of God, who will I be working for?

TRUTH'S REPLIES

7. I state the Bible position:
Faith (Rom.10:17) is essential, and then repentance is required of all (Acts 17:30), and then confession (Acts 8:37) and then baptism for remission of sins. (Acts 2:38 8:38 22:16)

8. Since God commands the things just stated, above, and since the devil opposes each and every one of them, and since one thus enters into newness of life and has died to sin (Rom.6:3-7), I am working for God.

9. Opponent still is picturing an alien as one so in corruption that he has no ability to do any good thing at all even in coming to God!

If any person baptizes one who is already a child of God, he has violated the scripturally stated purpose of baptism, as we've seen constantly.

Mr. Opponent, do you believe it is God's work to improperly divide the Word (2 Tim.2:15), to deceitfully handle the Book (2 Cor.4:2)? Who are you working for when you do that?

Now, I want my opponent to meet a man. Opponent has pictured the alien as totally corrupt, totally bad, having not one iota of ability to make any good move toward God. In Mark 9:24 a man said to the Lord, "Lord, I BELIEVE!" My opponent would say, "Wonderful! You are no longer a corrupt tree, a lost one, a blind one, condemned and a child of the devil. Let's get you on the way to baptism!" But the man didn't finish his statement: "Lord, I believe; HELP THOU MY UNBELIEF!" Opponent, what are you going to do with that man, who by your view, is both an alien and a citizen, both corrupt and fruitful, both lost and saved, both blind and seeing, both condemned and redeemed and both a child of God and a child of the devil?

TRUTH CONTINUES:

Opponent has much to say about faith not being a "process." We note again the Case of Saul, how he believed the Lord, confessed him, three days later still was in penitence and prayer, and then was baptized for remission of his sins. Over this time, what? A process!

Note Thayer,513, under "Faith": that by which ye turn to God; the obedience rendered to faith; springing from faith." And on p.514: "That which PROCEEDS from faith!" Here is that process!

Opponent has made the point that baptism isn't essential because God always supplies a negative with a positive command when an item is essential! What kind of faith is this that balks when God gives a positive command, insisting on a negative before obeying???? Can you imagine Abraham refusing to leave his homeland (Gen.12), and telling God that he's not going to obey because God didn't supply a negative? How rebellious an attitude is betrayed here!
ERROR'S POINTS

Col. 2:12 - It says "buried WITH Christ," not in order to get with Him! Paul, to the Romans, referred to an inward circumcision (Rom. 2:28); here we're told that it is "not made with hands" (v.11) and we know this is not actual baptism.

TRUTH'S REPLIES

Sir, in all obedience Christ is WITH us! You put repentance in front of faith, and yet repentance is born of GODLY sorrow! (2 Cor. 7:10) God is WITH the man who truly repents; but that does not say that the man is IN God, IN Christ. Opponent, can you not see that Paul, in v.11, is saying that these now in Christ are there due to their putting off THEIR SINS, just as a bit of flesh was put off in the actual rite of circumcision? As actual circumcision, from Abraham's time, was done with the hands, now these have had their sins removed by God's action, without hands, but it is still done in the act of baptism. Romans 6:3-7 is a perfect parallel.

Opponent seems to think something mystical, supernatural passes from the hands of the one DOING THE BAPTISM! Such is not so! It is by God's power (Rom.6:4), but both passages still show that the action is taken as one is baptized; there he puts to death the body of sin. Opponent misapplies the passage when the takes the matter of "hands" and applies it to the hands of the one doing the baptizing!

ERROR'S POINTS

1 Peter 3:21 - Peter says this is the like "figure." Just a figure; does not save anyone. Noah was a saved person before the flood, (Gen.7:1 2 Pet.2:5) he was a just man. Baptism saves us, Peter is saying, in a figure!

TRUTH'S REPLIES

Again, we must point out that the fact that something is "pictured," or given in a "figure" does not mean it is a non-essential. Think of Christ pictured as shepherd, door, bread, etc. Does that mean that he isn't really our guide, access-way to God, sustenance, etc.? Opponent is in error here, for this is not a "pictorial salvation" - a NON-REAL one - but salvation pictured!

Peter is describing the action whereby man is cleansed of his sins (v.18) removed from the ranks of the unjust and brought to God! And that is a REAL salvation!

The salvation of Noah's house, from their sins, isn't the matter under discussion. It is the salvation from the flood waters! And Noah's obedience to God's will resulted in he and his house being in the ark and saved from death. Peter says that that is a type of the same salvation men receive in baptism, but it is salvation from sins! Opponent still cannot remove the Biblical meaning of Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Gal.3:27, Rom.6:3-7 and 1 Peter 3:21. He can dodge, evade, deny, bend and twist, but he cannot meet these points successfully with his doctrine!

Again, let Paul be the one to tell you that in baptism one DIES - the old man (of sin) is crucified, the body of sin is destroyed - and note v.7 as the apostle describes the obedience: one dies to be freed from sin! Opponent, you have a disagreement with God, not me!

No, faith is not placed IN MAN in being baptized. It would be so if man's will had originated and designed baptism; it would be so if man's wisdom was all that was behind baptism (1 Cor.2:1-5). We've seen that God authored the doctrine of baptism (Luke 7:29, 30) and opponent has not be able to overthrow God's authority!
"EXCURSIONS" DURING THE DISCUSSION

(1) EXPERIENCE

Error: "I know when I was saved! God has blessed my life, and I wonder if my opponent can answer according to an experience you've had with God? We "glory in tribulation...tribulation worketh patience, and patience, experience, and experience, hope." (Rom. 5:1-4)

Truth: Friends, I told you that he would get around to an emotional pitch, but THAT WON'T DO IT! Mr. Opponent, we signed propositions to the effect that "the Scriptures teach." Would your experience, or mine, be the standard? Would that prove anything, considering that every Holiness member, every Mormon, every Catholic can give one? Will you accept them all and fellowship them?

The experience I've had is faith in Christ (Heb. 11:6), repentance (Acts 17:30), confession of my faith (Rom. 10:10) and baptism for remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and I have Bible, not some personal emotional pitch, behind it.

Besides, opponent misuses the passage in Romans 5. Paul speaks of those in faith, justified, in salvation, and he describes the trials and afflictions to come to God's children, and that patience, hope and experience comes thereby. Paul is NOT dealing with some emotional tale one, in opponent's group, brings in testifying before witnesses as to how God has saved them. Opponent, deal with the truth of the Word; don't use deceit!

(2) CHURCH HISTORY

Error: "Nobody was ever baptized by this man's teaching until 1827! These people didn't exist as a group until that time!"

Truth: Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Rom. 6:3-7, Gal. 3:27 and 1 Peter 3:21, dating back nearly 2,000 years shows opponent to be in error! And I don't know where he gets his dates, but the Lord's church dates back to Acts 2. To show how wrong he is, even on his dates as to the church of Christ, note this list of citations:

"William Rogers, Born in Campbell Co. Va., July 7, 1784. Removed with his father to Caine Ridge, Bourbon Co. Apr. 1798; United with the Church of Christ at Cane Ridge in 1807. Died Feb.15, 1862 in the 78 year of his age."

This man was a member of the church of Christ from 1807!

"Here lies Nathaniel Rogers...born July 25, 1755....what is of consequence is that he was a member of the church of Christ, in the bosom of which he died...December 1804 at the age of 49 years...."

This man was a member of the church of Christ prior to 1804!

Both of those grave markers are in the Cane Ridge cemetery, Paris, Ky.


This is a historical marker erected by the State of Massachusetts in Revere, a northeast suburb of Boston.

These citations show members of the church of Christ long before opponent's claim that they came into being. His historical data is as unsound as his doctrinal views!
(3) "JOHN THE BAPTIST"

Note: Opponent had made references to our "ecclesiastical father," of course referring to Campbell. In the next speech, truth took that statement and mentioned, in view of 1 Tim.1:2, 2 Tim.1:2, and Titus 1:4, that maybe in the sense that obeying the gospel was obeying the scriptures penned by Paul, that Paul was our "ecclesiastical father." This naturally was not what opponent had in mind.

Later on, opponent began mentioning Campbell by name. In replying, truth pointed out that the Baptist position, regarding history, would carry them back to Mano Simon, and wondered if they should be called "Mennonites" or "Simonites." And, truth stated that their view on faith could be traced back to Luther, and maybe they could more accurately be called "Lutherans."

Then, from opponent's corner came the words: "JOHN, THE BAPTIST!"

TRUTH: "Am I going to have to debate two of you? But, since someone has joined in with the expression 'John, the Baptist,' let me state that it was put correctly: John THE Baptist! THE Baptist, never "A" Baptist! He was the ONLY one!

24 times the expression is found, and never "A" Baptist; never is there a hint that there was more than one, never a hint that he was one of a number of Baptists, or that he had a group called "Baptists."
THE SCRIPTURES TEACH THAT THERE IS ONE GOD IN THREE PERSONS: FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT.

I. LANGUAGE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT SHOWS A PLURALITY.
   Gen. 1:1 "In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heaven and the earth."
   Gen. 1:26 "And God said, Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness;"
   Gen. 3:22 "And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of US."
   Gen. 11:6,7 "And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do, and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let US go down...."
   Isa. 6:8 "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send and who will go for US?"

II. THE EVENTS SURROUNDING CHRIST'S BAPTISM SHOW THREE PERSONS.
   Matt. 3:16,17 "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

III. PASSAGES WHICH MENTION ALL THREE SHOW A PLURALITY.
   Matt. 28:19 "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."
   2 Cor. 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all."

IV. JESUS' FUNCTION AS ADVOCATE REQUIRES A PLURALITY.
   1 John 2:1,2 "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:"

V. THE WORK OF JESUS AS A MEDIATOR SHOWS A PLURALITY.
   1 Tim. 2:5 "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

VI. THE FACT OF JESUS BEING WITH THE FATHER SHOWS A PLURALITY.
   John 1:1-3,14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."
   "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."
   John 17:5,6 "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was."
   John 17:24,25 "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou loved me before the foundation of the world."

VII. THE FATHER SENT HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, HE DID NOT COME HIMSELF.
   1 John 4:14 "And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world."
   John 3:17 "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved."
   John 8:24 "If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceed forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but He sent me."
   John 16:27,28 "I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father."
   Gal. 4:4 "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law."

VIII. JESUS CAME TO EARTH AND LEFT THE FATHER. FATHER WAS IN HEAVEN AND JESUS WAS ON EARTH.
   John 6:68 "For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me."
   John 13:3 "Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God and went to God."
IX. THE TRANSFIGURATION ATTENDS TO A PLURALITY.
Matt. 17:5 "While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them:
and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son,
in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him."
2 Peter 1:16-18 "And were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received
from God the Father honor and glory, when there came a voice to him from
the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in
the holy mount."

X. THE TWO WITNESSES ATTEND TO A PLURALITY.
John 8:16-18 "And yet if I judge, my judgement is true: for I am not alone,
but I and the Father that sent me. It is also written in your law, that
the testimony of two men is true. I am one that bear witness of myself,
and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me."

XI. THE PARENT KNOWS SOME THINGS THE SON DOES NOT KNOW.
Mark 13:32 "But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the
angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father."

XII. THE SONSHIP OF JESUS DEMANDS MORE THAN ONE PERSON.
John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son,
that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

XIII. THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT DEMANDS MORE THAN ONE.
Matt. 12:31,32 "wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy
shall be forgiven unto men but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not
be forgiven unto men, And whosoever speaketh a word against the Holy Ghost,
it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the
world to come."

XIV. THE HOLY GASRIT IS A PERSON BECAUSE HE HAS THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A PERSON.
A. He reproves, John 16:8; B. He teaches, John 14:26; C. He speaks, 1 Tim.
4:1; D. He intercedes, Rom. 8:26; E. He leads, Gal. 5:18; F. He appoints,
Acts 13:2; G. He may be vexed, Isa. 63:10; H. He may be grieved, Eph. 4:30;
I. He may be lied to, Acts 5:3; J. He may be resisted, 1 Thess. 5:19;
K. He may be despised, Heb. 10:29; L. He comforts, John 14:26.

XV. ONTINESS DOCTRINE CONTRADICTS THE FOLLOWING PASSAGES.
1 Cor. 15:24 - Christ delivers the kingdom to God the Father.
Acts 2:24 - God raised Christ from the dead.
John 16:13 - Apostles saw Jesus; but in John 1:18 no man has seen the Father.
Therefore, Jesus and Father not same person.
John 4:34, John 6:38 - Jesus stated he did the will of his Father, not his
own. The Father has a will and the Son has a will.
Therefore, they cannot be the same person.

Luke 24:39 - Jesus said he had flesh and bones. John 4:24 says the Father
is Spirit. Therefore, the Father and the Son are not the
same person.

Heb. 5:8-10 - Christ is called a Son. Did Jehovah name himself Son?
Heb. 9:14 - Christ offered himself without spot to God. Did he offer
himself to himself?

Heb. 9:24 - Christ entered into the Holy place to appear in the presence of
God. Did he appear before himself?

John 15:1 - Father is husbandman and Jesus is the vine. How come if they
are the same person?

John 12:49 - Jesus declared he had not spoken of himself which would be
false if he is the only person of the Godhead."