

Christianity
is
Faith
put into
Action

1 Peter 4: 17 —

For it is time for judgment to begin with the family of God; and if it begins with us, what will the outcome be for those who do not **obey the gospel of God?**

The **gospel** must be **obeyed.**
Christ called for *action* in order to become a part of the family of God. What is the gospel?

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1 Corinthians 15:1 —

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the **gospel** I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.

2 **By this gospel you are saved,** if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ **died** for our sins according to the Scriptures,

4 that he was **buried**, that he was **raised** on the third day according to the Scriptures,

5 and that he **appeared** to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

6 After that, he **appeared** to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.

7 Then he **appeared** to James, then to all the apostles,

8 and last of all he **appeared** to me also, as to one abnormally born.

This is an inspired definition of the gospel. But **how** do we **obey the gospel?**

Those key words were: **died**, **buried**, **raised**, **appeared.**

Romans 6: —

“1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase?

2 By no means! We **died** to sin; how can we live in it any longer?

3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death?**

4 **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.”**

We **obey the gospel** when:

We are — **dead** to sin
buried in baptism
raised from death
living a new life.

*This is how we take part in
His death 20 centuries later.*



Is this salvation earned by our good works?
Not at all.

Titus 3:4 —

“But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.”

The “washing of rebirth” is our baptism and the renewal brought on by the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is not a good deed or a good work that earns us anything including our salvation.

We have seen it: *The gospel is obeyed in baptism.* Then, at the Last Supper, Jesus said his blood was to be shed for the forgiveness of sins (including ours). There **is** a connection between the blood of Christ and baptism.

Matthew 26: —

“ 26 While they were eating, Jesus took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my body.”

27 Then he took the cup, gave thanks and offered it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you.

28 This is my **blood of the covenant**, which is poured out for many for the **forgiveness of sins.**

Now - *when* does **his blood** cause this **forgiveness of my sins?**

Peter said that **baptism** is the *time* of the **forgiveness of sins.**

Acts 2: —

37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?”

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.

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

Christ's blood was shed for the forgiveness of sins and we are baptized for the forgiveness of sins.

Now we know God's timing.

We can't *feel* the **forgiveness of sins.**

Forgiveness takes place in the mind of God,

But we can *feel* our conscience.

Has it been cleared of guilt?

Hebrews 9:—

13 The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean.

14 How much more, then, will the **blood of Christ,** who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our consciences** from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

The **blood of Christ** cleanses our **conscience**.
At what *time* is this available to us?

1 Peter 3:—

20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water,

21 and this water symbolizes **baptism** that now saves you also— not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a **good conscience** toward God. It saves you by the **resurrection** of Jesus Christ,

22 who has gone into heaven and is at God's right hand— with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

A **good conscience** is available at **baptism**.

Being **freed from our sins** is a high priority with any thinking person. Jesus made the arrangements.

Revelation 1:—

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and

has **freed us from our sins** by **his blood**,

6 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.

When are we **freed from our sins?**

Take the case of Saul (Paul). He had faith, had repented and certainly had a tremendous experience in seeing the risen Jesus. Now, he needed his **sins washed away** in **baptism**. Here are the instructions given to him:

Acts 22:—

15 You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard.

16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, **be baptized** and **wash your sins away**, calling on his name.

Each person who believes and has repented needs to complete their Christian experience in **baptism**. Then we can claim the promise of having our **sins washed away**.

Now we know how to **obey the gospel**. Getting it done is up to us.

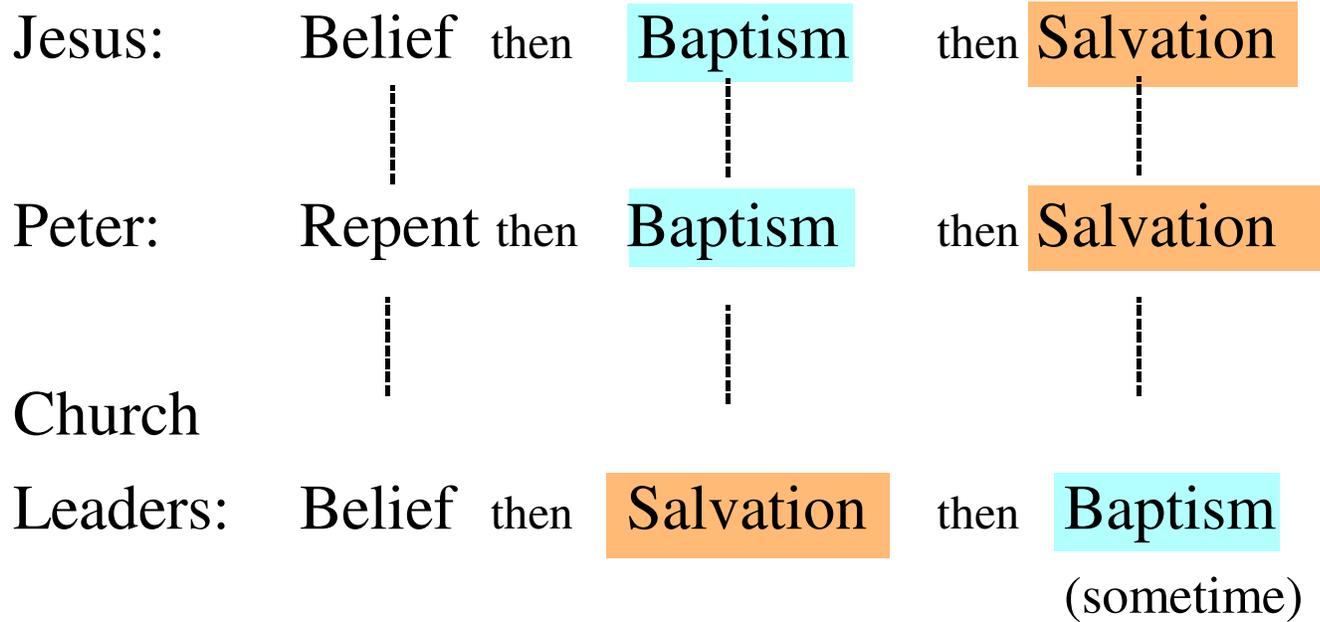
2 Thessalonians 1:—

6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you

7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

You decide:



WHICH IS RIGHT?