

REMINDER

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What Baptists Are Not

B*aptist are not Protestants!* The name **Protestant** was given to those churches which came **out** of Roman Catholicism during the Reformation which began in the 1500's. It originally applied through the 1700's to Lutherans, and Anglicans. Later, Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Methodists were added to the lists of Protestant denominations. Though many people, including Webster's Dictionary, refer to Baptists as being Protestants, it is not correct to refer to them as such, any more than it is to lump all non-Catholic denominations in one group and label them Protestant. Historically, Baptists were *never a part* of the Roman Catholic Church or the Protestant Reformation and, therefore, can not be correctly called "protesters" or *Protestants*.

It is true that many people who became Baptists left the ranks of Protestant churches which were doctrinally unsound and apostate. They left these churches because of their strong conviction that the Word of God should not be compromised. Some formed new churches and called themselves "Baptists" to make it clear that they believed and followed the New Testament. It is not historically correct to identify Baptists as Catholic "*protesters*" who left the Roman church. In the many books on church history which make up the bibliography for this article, there is not one recorded incident of a Baptist church beginning founded out of Roman Catholicism. Protestants for centuries saw the Baptists as their "enemies" and murdered them by the thousands in the name of Protestantism. It is surely an affront to call a Baptist by the name of a group that has so hated and persecuted them down throughout history.

There have always existed, from the time of Christ, New Testament churches which were not a part of the Roman Church. In fact the Roman Church can only trace its history back to 313 A.D. when the Roman Emperor Constantine made Christianity a legal religion. In 395 A.D., Emperor Constantine "Christianized" Rome and made the worship of idols punishable by death. By 400 A.D., the Emperor Theodosius had declared Christianity the only state religion of the Roman Empire. Many churches by this time had come under the domination of the Roman government and had ceased from being New Testament churches. When the Roman Emperor declared Christianity the religion of Rome, he in mass "converted" hordes of pagans which made up the Empire. Pagan temples became the meeting houses for "Christians." Rome, then hired unregenerate pagan priests as "Christian" ministers. The influx of these falsely converted pagans is one reason Roman Catholicism came to have so many false and pagan beliefs.

However, in the midst of all this apostasy that was the foundation of the Roman Catholic church, there were groups of Christians who were *never* a part of the "Christianization" of the Roman Empire. These New Testament believers rejected every attempt to include them in with the other churches who compromised and accepted the Roman government's money, rule, and authority.

(continued inside)

Over the years, the growth of so many false and idolatrous practices caused some within the Catholic church, such as Martin Luther, to rebel and to attempt to "reform" the Catholic church. This was the birth of Protestant churches. Although, many Protestants returned in part to a belief in the Bible as their authority for their faith and practice, not one of them EVER completely left all the doctrinal errors and false teachings of the apostate Roman Catholic church.

Protestants have never accepted the principle of separation of church and state. In Europe, Protestant churches are "state" churches and supported to some degree by government imposed taxes. In Germany, the state church is Lutheran, in England, it's the Anglican church, in France, it is the Roman Catholic Church, etc.

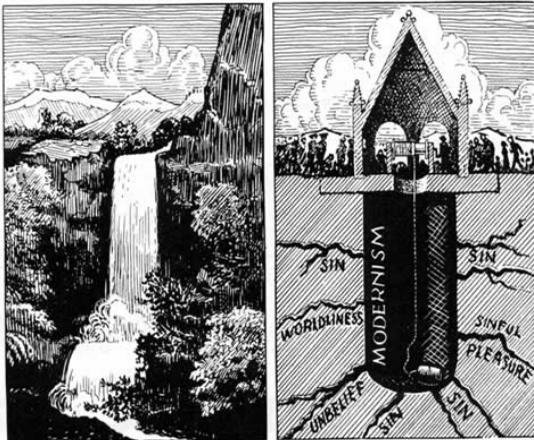
The idea that the bread and wine (grape juice) in the Lord's Supper actually becoming the physical body of Christ when taken is a Roman Catholic teaching that Protestants only modified slightly. Still today, many Protestants see the Lord's Supper as a sacrament, having to some degree saving properties or imparting some spiritual benefit. True New Testament Christians have always rejected such unbiblical ideas.

Protestants still practice infant baptism which absolutely is not taught in the Word of God. Many Protestant denominations still hold to the writings of their church fathers as a source of church doctrine and have never accepted the Bible as their sole source of teachings for their faith and practice. They all hold on to a system of hierarchy in church government and do not accept the autonomy the local church. Autonomy means each local church governs itself free from outside authority and control.

Baptists, basing their beliefs solely on the Bible, have never held to these teachings and see them as heresy. Thus, history and the doctrines of Protestantism clearly show that **Baptists are not Protestants.**

- Cooper P. Abrams

IS THIS THE CAUSE OF THE DROUGHT?



My people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.— Jeremiah 2:13

COUNT ON ME!

by Robert Simms
(continued from last week)

I. Counted on to Do What We Ought (continued):

Another way of putting this is that we cannot use our status as people "under grace" instead of "under law" to avoid what the heart of the law taught and what God expects. It is inconceivable that in the matter of stewardship the Holy Spirit would lead us to give less as children of grace than we would have to have given (if perhaps grudgingly) under the law.

An elderly man who had been won to Christ as a young soldier in World War I recounted his years in church, and commented that there were many times he didn't agree with something the majority in the church had decided or the preacher had done, but that it had never affected his tithe. He explained, "If the preacher or some members and I disagree, they may be wrong, but so may I. And my tithe isn't given to any of them, but to God. I can't let other people tempt me to disobey God." His giving record proved his claim. He had given above a tithe for many years, without interruption.

God wants to be able to count on you like that. Your church needs more men and women, boys and girls, who can be counted on to do what we ought.

The bottom line is that the Christian has a responsibility to abide by God's unchanging expectation: that we will be generous with his work. But as we will see, he expects us to do that not out of sheer duty, not because we are threatened or browbeaten to do so, but because of something that arises from deep within us.

II. Counted on to Act from the Heart:

God has given the Christian a new heart through the new birth. Upon this heart he has written his word and his law. And out of that new heart, as we grow to recognize the life of Christ in us, we will want to be good stewards.

In his first great sermon, Jesus announced that the law, that ancient God that had commanded the Israelites what they must do, was being fulfilled in his own life and ministry.

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say unto you, that except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:17-20).

The concept of "fulfilling the law" is very important to the New Testament teaching about stewardship. Since tithing is part of

Old Testament law, we need to understand what it meant for Jesus to *fulfill* the law, in order to know how we are to think of tithing. Some people, for instance, believe that since tithing was a law, and the law has been fulfilled, tithing is irrelevant to our day and time, and has no place at all in the Christian's discussion. Are they right?

Jesus meant to set straight the thinking of those Jews who believed that he was on the verge of overturning everything they had ever lived for. One version of Jesus the Nazarene had it that he was turning Judaism on its ear, offending every righteous person and blaspheming God. None of this was true. He emphatically told his hearers that his mission was to fulfill the law.

To fully understand what this means we have to understand how the law as a whole was incomplete, or not yet "full," and we must identify specific parts of the law that looked forward to identifiable things or persons to come.

1. Fulfillment Means What Is Incomplete Becomes Complete. The sense in which the law was incomplete on the whole is simply that it could only require behavior from the outside, but could not motivate that behavior from the inside. Paul expressed this well in the letter to the Roman church:

"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: that the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit" (Romans 8:3-4).

Jesus boldly declares that his life and ministry were designed to complete the law of God, by bringing to man the inward motivation to obey God. This is one of the primary meanings of "fulfill," here in Matthew.

2. Fulfillment Means Jesus Satisfied Every Requirement Perfectly. By saying he had come to fulfill the law, Jesus also meant that he would fully obey it, without any exception, without any flaw, and without any sin, and would therefore demonstrate before all humanity how the expectations of God are to be met. In other words, Jesus himself is God's illustration of perfect humanity. Adam and Eve would have been like Jesus had they never fallen. Never mind that we realize we are not and cannot be perfect while in this world. We still need the perfect example Jesus gave us, as a means of interpreting the law of God. The highest authority on the meaning of the Ten Commandments or any other Bible exhortation or rule, is the life of Jesus Christ himself.

3. An Example of Fulfillment. One example of the law Jesus fulfilled is the observance of the Sabbath. This commandment was one of the ten great ones, and for centuries the Jews had observed the seventh day as the Sabbath - a day of worship and rest. The New Testament book Hebrews points out that the "Sabbath" was a rest commemorating creation, but that it looked forward to another rest yet to come, a rest secured in the work of Jesus Christ, through his finished work on the cross (Hebrews 4:4-11). Since Jesus said he came to fulfill the law, clearly he

fulfilled this commandment. In Jesus *work* on the cross, the saving work of God, the new rest of man became his trust in the divine work, resting from "*works salvation*."

Christians became aware of this fundamental change early on. Very soon after the resurrection of Christ they were meeting on "the Lord's Day," or the first day of the week, instead of the seventh. As Gentiles came into the church, and then dominated it, there was, in fact, no Jewish Sabbath any longer, but the celebration of the Lord's Day instead, in a new spirit of living worship.

- More Next Week

THE BEGGAR'S RAGS

A beggar lived near the king's palace.

One day he saw a proclamation posted outside the palace gate. The king was giving a great dinner. Anyone dressed in royal garments was invited to the party.

The beggar went on his way. He looked at the rags he was wearing and sighed. Surely only kings and their families wore royal robes, he thought. Slowly an idea crept into his mind. The audacity of it made him tremble. Would he dare?

He made his way back to the palace. He approached the guard at the gate. "Please, sire, I would like to speak to the king."

"Wait here," the guard replied. In a few minutes, he was back. "His Majesty will see you," he said, and led the beggar in.

"You wish to see me?" asked the king.

"Yes, Your Majesty. I want so much to attend the banquet, but I have no royal robes to wear. Please, sir, if I may be so bold, may I have one of your old garments so that I, too, may come to the banquet?"

The beggar shook so hard that he could not see the faint smile that was on the king's face.

"You have been wise in coming to me," the king said. He called to his son, the young prince. "Take this man to your room and array him in some of your clothes."

The prince did as he was told and soon the beggar was standing before a mirror, clothed in garments that he had never dared hope for.

"You are now eligible to attend the king's banquet tomorrow night," said the prince. "But even more important, you will never need any other clothes. These garments will last forever."

The beggar dropped to his knees. "Oh, thank you," he cried. But as he started to leave, he looked back at his pile of dirty rags on the floor. He hesitated. What if the prince was wrong? What if he would need his old clothes again? Quickly he gathered them up.

The banquet was far greater than he had ever imagined, but he could not enjoy himself as he should. He had made a small bundle of his old rags and it kept falling off his lap. The food was passed quickly and the beggar missed some of the greatest delicacies.

Time proved that the prince was right. The clothes lasted forever. Still the poor beggar grew fonder and fonder of his old

rag. As time passed people seemed to forget the royal robes he was wearing. They saw only the little bundle of filthy rags that he clung to wherever he went. They even spoke of him as the old man with the rags.

One day as he lay dying, the king visited him. The beggar saw the sad look on the king's face when he looked at the small bundle of rags by the bed.

Suddenly, the beggar remembered the prince's words and he realized that his bundle of rags had cost him a lifetime of true royalty. He wept bitterly at his folly.

And the king wept with him.

☛ We have been invited into a royal family - the family of God. To feast at God's dinner table, all we have to do is shed our old rags and put on the "new clothes" of faith which is provided by God's Son, Jesus Christ.

But - we cannot hold onto our old rags. When we put our faith in Jesus, we must let go of the sin in our life, and our old ways of living.

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WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. ***Admit that you are a sinner.***
2. ***Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.***
3. ***Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.***
4. ***You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).***
5. ***By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.***

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarrt
 Cradle Roll 2: Shirley White
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
 Cradle Roll 2: Kelsey Moreno
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Volunteers Needed!!!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of August 8, 2010

Sunday School ----- 21
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 37
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 26
 Wed. Eve. Service, 08/04/10 ----- 17

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of August 8, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 923.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 28.00
Total Received for Week of 08/08/10: \$ 951.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT -

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received This Month ----- \$ 28.00
Amount Still Needed By The End Of This Month: \$ 245.08



Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnelly, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford,
 Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White