

Where Do We Go from Here? Four Possible Directions After Baptism

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Gray

Introduction

1. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:26-27
2. Though many deny the need for baptism, for the remission of sins, inspiration shows clearly it is necessary.
3. Most here have complied with this command of God.
4. After these initial steps of salvation, one must continue in faithful obedience. 2 Peter 3:18
5. Some do not know what to do next after baptism
6. We want to show four possible directions after baptism.

II Discussion.

A. Steady Growth Hebrews 6:1

1. This will only happen with proper:
 - a. Desire 1 Peter 2:2; Colossians 3:22
 - b. Effort 2 Timothy 2:15-16
 - c. Honesty 2 Corinthians 8:21; Philippians 4:8
2. Many have failed in “steady growth” because of not having one or more of these qualities!
3. Are you one that is following the path of “steady growth.”

B. Status Quo Revelation 3:16

1. Definition the existing state of affairs; average.
2. One who is average is as close to the bottom as to the top!
3. Yet we who are Christians are to be peculiar people 1 Peter 2:9
4. You nor I cannot go down this path of “status quo” and meet these requirements!
5. Are you satisfied with being like everyone else?
6. If so be ready to suffer eternally with the majority Matthew 7:13-14

C. Straying growth 2 Peter 2:20

1. Definition – to wander from company, restraint, or proper limits, to wander from a direct course or at random; deviate.
2. When one obeys the Gospel he in essence promises to “trust and obey.”
3. However some fail to do so.
4. As a result they abandon their pledge of loyalty to Christ
5. They lose all previously gained, and are thus laying up for themselves eternal punishment instead of treasures of heaven. John 15:6
6. Have you failed to live up to your commitment to Christ?

D. Slipshod Ephesians 4:14

1. Definition – careless
2. The slipshod Christian damages the church, as well as himself, greatly!
3. It is only when one stands firmly upon the truth, with love for his fellowman, that he benefits himself and/or others.
4. Ephesians 4:15-32
5. One must be willing to completely give up the “old and sinful ways”, and put on the “new spiritual man.”

6. Have you done so – that you will be blessed, and a blessing to others
7. Or is your growing slipshod?

III Conclusion

1. Yes indeed there are different paths that one can take after the initial obedience to the Gospel.
2. However only one direction is the path that will be pleasing to God!
3. Let us all therefore make every effort to
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means
 - b. Romans 12:1-2
 - c. 1 Corinthians 9:27
4. God never has accepted blemished sacrifices neither will He accept us if we are
 - a. Status Quo
 - b. Straying
 - c. Slipshod
5. If you are faithful the remain so, if unfaithful repent, if you have not obeyed then now!

Source Sermon from Eugene Jenkins: polishing the pulpit