

Home Bible Study

I. The Standard Whereby All Are Judged

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the **books** were opened: and another **book** was opened, **which is the book of life**: and **the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books**, according to their works.

John said he saw two things: a book and *books*. One book was identified as the **Book of Life**. The other set of books was not given a name, but we do know something about them. The dead are judged according to what's written in them. It is only logical that those books are the **66** books of the **Bible**.

John 12:48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.**

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God *winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

*5237. hupereido, hoop-er-i'-do; from G5228 and G1492; to **overlook**, i.e. not **punish**

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

Isa 28:10 For **precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little**:

- We are authorized only to preach what the Apostle's preached and practice what they practiced. There were things that were preached that were never practiced. (If thine eye offends thee . . .)
- Prov 28:18 Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved:
- Rom 8:24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?
- Acts 2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.
- **Was any of this ever practiced?** Is there a record in the Scripture of someone 'calling on the name of the Lord' and then being pronounced saved? Then, that can't be what it meant!

2 Pet 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any **private interpretation**.

Psa 33:4 For the word of the LORD is right; and all his works are done in truth.

- The Bible is its own best commentary

II. What does it mean to be 'Born Again'?

Accepting Christ as your personal savior. . .no one ever did this in the Scripture as a way of being 'saved.' In fact, just the opposite occurred . . . you must get Him to accept you (Acts 10:34-35; Rom 12:1-2).

NIV Acts 15:8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

NIV Rom 15:7 Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

John 3:1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

If Jesus had just told you that unless you were born again you could not go to heaven (see the kingdom of God), what would be your most logical next question?

John 3:4 Nicodemus saith unto him, **How** can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

Notice that Jesus said "ye must be born **again**." Nicodemus was already alive, already born. At birth, the 'mother's water breaks and life enters the child ~ this is also known as the spirit of life or the breath of life. Nicodemus had already been born once, Jesus is telling him he must be born **again**.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

According to the Bible, only the Bible, what does the phrase 'born again' mean?

Answer: To be born of **water** and to be born of the **Spirit**.

Question: Will anybody make it to heaven (the kingdom of God) without being born again?
" yes " no

? Now the question that begs to be answered is this . . . what does it mean to be born of water and of the Spirit?

III. The Gospel

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.**

1 Cor 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached unto you**, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

1 Cor 15:2 **By which also ye are saved**, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

The Gospel **saves**.

A. What is the Gospel?

1 Cor 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died** for our sins according to the scriptures;

1 Cor 15:4 And that **he was buried**, and that **he rose again** the third day according to the scriptures:

The Gospel consists of three parts.

(Jesus died for the sins of the world corporately - His Gospel must be applied individually.)

1. How do we apply the death of Christ to each of us individually?

2 Cor 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

1 Cor 15:31 . . . I die daily.

Col 3:5 **Mortify [to deaden]** therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

Col 3:6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

L We apply His death at **repentance**.

2. How do we apply the burial of Christ to each of us individually?

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: (Exodus 4:24-26 - God would've killed Moses over it)

Col 2:12 **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

L We apply His burial at **water baptism**.

3. How do we apply the resurrection of Christ to each of us individually?

Rom 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

L We apply His resurrection through the reception of the **Holy Ghost**.

B. The 3 Elements of Salvation Correspond with the 3 Parts of the Gospel.

1 John 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

Here’s a table to illustrate this great truth:

Event	Component #1	Component #2	Component #3	Scripture
Three Elements of salvation	Blood	Water	Spirit	1 John 5:8
Gospel	Death	Burial	Resurrection	1 Cor 15:1-4
Application of the Gospel	Salvation	Salvation	Salvation	Rom 1:16
Three Steps of Salvation	Repentance	Water baptism in Jesus’ Name	Infilling of the Holy Ghost	Acts 2:38

IV. The Birthday of the Church

A. Peter gets the keys (authority)

Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

Mat 16:14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

Mat 16:15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Mat 16:19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

B. Pentecost - Birthday of Church

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

Acts 2:3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

What a person is at his/her birth is what they’ll be as long as they live. Of course they’ll grow,

become educated, etc. but their basic structure, their DNA will never change. What they are at birth they'll be as long as they live.

To find the Church in the earth today, you must find out what she was at her birth. What she was and did at her birth is what she'll be today.

DNA, an acronym for **Do Not Alter**.

When a cell chooses to rebel against the DNA of the body, it creates its organ . . . called a tumor. Cancer is nothing more than cell rebellion. Any time a church rebels against the original DNA of the church, it is a cancerous church that results in death.

C. Peter was the only one authorized to preach at Pentecost.

Acts 2:12 And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

Acts 2:13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

Acts 2:14 **But Peter, standing up with the eleven**, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

The eleven standing up with Peter indicated their **agreement** with what he said.

Acts 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

Acts 2:37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, **Men and brethren, what shall we do?**

This is the first time in the New Testament dispensation of grace that a person asks what he must do to be saved.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be **baptized** ^(the what) every one of you **in the name of Jesus Christ** ^(the how) **for the remission of sins** ^(the why), and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost**.

D. Other Instances of Salvation in Acts

1. Peter at the House of Cornelius

Peter has to defend the grace of God to the Gentiles when he is questioned by the Jews later in chapter 11. Here, Peter recites the events of chapter 10 and gives us better insight into what happened.

Acts 11:2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,

Acts 11:3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

Acts 11:4 But **Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning**, and expounded it by order unto them, saying, . . .

Acts 11:13 And he showed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;

Acts 11:14 **Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.**

The angel told Cornelius that Peter would tell him words whereby he and his household could be saved. Peter told Cornelius the same thing he told the Jews on the Day of Pentecost.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell** on all them which heard the word.

Acts 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed [**saved Jews**] were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 10:46 For *[because]* they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

2. Paul at Ephesus

Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? *[already believers]* And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Acts 19:3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. *[already baptized]*

Acts 19:4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

[re-baptized]

Acts 19:6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

V. The Epistles Contrasted with Acts

Key Point: The Book of Acts is the only book in the entire New Testament that records the preaching of a preacher to a sinner in the Dispensation of Grace.

Epistles were letters that Paul and others wrote to churches (already born again, already saved).

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)

Gal 1:2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:

In the book of Acts, the apostles told the people how to get saved; in the epistles, Paul and others tell the church how to stay saved.

Galatians was the first epistle to the New Testament Church. What do you think was the subject of Paul's first pastoral message?

Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

The answer: false doctrine.

When you are removed unto another gospel, you are removed from HIM!

Gal 1:7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

Remember what the Gospel is - death, burial, and resurrection. For someone to pervert or change it would mean that someone was messing with one of the three - death, burial, or resurrection | | repentance, water baptism, or Holy Ghost.

Gal 1:8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be *accursed.

*331. anathema, an-ath'-em-ah; from G394; a (religious) ban or (concr.) excommunicated (thing or person):--accursed, anathema, curse, X great.

ἀνάθεμα (ə-năth/ə-mə) *n., pl. ἀνάθεμας*.

1. A formal ecclesiastical ban, curse, or excommunication.
2. A vehement denunciation; a curse:
3. One that is cursed or **damned**

Final question: What did Paul preach? Answer: Acts 19:1-6.