

Bryan Station Baptist Church

INDEPENDENT

MISSIONARY

THE PIONEER BAPTIST

ORGANIZED 1786

VOL. 18, NO. 11
AUGUST, 1987

"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

CHRIST OUR PRIORITY

C. D. COLE

"He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me." Matthew 10:37.

Of all the words that have been overworked in the business world the last few months it is the word "priority." So often when we wish to buy anything, you must get a priority. This means that if you are able to get a certain piece of paper it will entitle you to purchase what you want before others. It means you will be first or before others.

I want to use the word in a higher and more important sense. In the sense of our relationship to Jesus Christ He should be our priority. We should put Him first. His claims upon us should have preference. The Roman world gave priority to military might--they put emphasis on the sword and fell. Christ said, they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Greece gave priority to philosophy, to human wisdom,

to education. The Greeks thought the gospel was foolishness, but the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and Greece fell. Some today give priority to business--business is their god. Like the physical corpse they have money over their eyes. And some give priority to pleasure. Pleasure is everything to them.

Christ should be our priority because we were His priority. He put us before His own comfort. When He went to the cross to be punished for our sins. He came not to be ministered unto but to minister.

Many people have claims upon us, parents, children, neighbor, country. And these claims will be enforced if we try to ignore them. That is the purpose of all human law, to make us treat each other right.

Christ has proper claims on all of us. His claims came before all others. He does not enforce His claims at least in the present. He urges His claims in His word,

but does not enforce them. We must voluntarily make Him our priority. As your pastor I must press His claims upon you, but I cannot and must not try to enforce them. If you do not want to honor Him with your life and purse we do not want you to do it. We want your help--we need your help--but we want it to be a loving help--we don't want your help to be given with a frown but with a smile. If anybody deserves service with a smile it is our blessed Lord. I am afraid there is little glad service. Christ wants our love for Him to constrain us. If ye love me keep my commandments.

Now let us look at some of the grounds of Christ's claim:

I. The right of creation. He has claims upon us because He made us. He was in the world and the world was made by Him. Without Him there was not anything made that was made. If you make something on your own time, you have a pretty good claim to it. Nobody can rightly take it from you.

Christ is our Creator and has the claims of a Creator.

II. The right of redemption. Redemption is a big word in the Bible. Christ is our redeemer.

A. He redeemed us from the curse of the law. To do that He became a curse for us. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." Galatians 3:13.

B. He redeemed us by His blood. "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace." Ephesians 1:7.

Does that make any appeal to you? How would you feel towards a man who would save you from temporal death by giving his own life? I'm afraid it just doesn't get hold of us what Christ has done for us at Calvary.

III. The right of conquest. Christ is a soldier as well as a Redeemer. His redeemed are captives of Satan and must be taken from him. Christ is captain of our salvation. Satan gets the use of our hands and feet because he has our hearts. To take us from Satan, Christ must do something to our minds and hearts. This is work of conversion. Elements in conversion: conviction, repentance, and faith.

Conclusion: In a certain home of several children there was received a box of toys called Noah's Ark. This was a miniature ark made out of wood with a number of animals made out of wood. The children played flood by putting

the ark in the bathtub and letting in the water. The ark with the animals inside floated gracefully on the rising waters. All were safe in the ark. Children played to their heart's content. Then they pulled the stopper and the water receded and the ark rested on dry land on the bottom of the tub. What would they do next? Ask mother. She said do what they did in the Bible story, offer a sacrifice. Noah took some of the animals and offered them up as a burnt offering to God. But what would they offer up? What would they part with? The giraffes was too pretty, the elephant was too big, the horse was needed, and the cow gave milk and they could not part with her. Finally little baby sister said, "look here is a sheep all bruised and broken, it has a broken leg, it isn't worth anything, lets sacrifice it." That's the way they did in the days of Malachi. "Ye said also, behold, what a weariness is it! and ye have snuffed at it, saith the Lord of hosts; and ye brought that which was torn, and the lame, and the sick; thus ye brought an offering: should I accept this of your hand? saith the Lord." Malachi 1:13.

AND NOW TO LOVE!
I Corinthians 13:1-8

1. LOVE suffers long. Bears. Believes. Hopes. Endures.

2. LOVE IS KIND. Never acts rashly or insolently.

3. LOVE does not envy.

4. LOVE is not conceited.

5. LOVE is humble. No parade, no airs, it works then retires.

6. LOVE is courteous. Always polite. Never rude.

7. LOVE is unselfish!!! Never sour or bitter. Seeks only good in others. Does not retaliate or seek revenge.

8. LOVE is righteous. Hates sin. Is never glad when others go wrong. Always eager to believe the best. Always gladdened by goodness in others.

9. LOVE is sincere. Never boastful. Not a hypocrite. Always honest. Leaves no impression but what is strictly true. Never self-assertive. Does not blaze out in passionate anger nor brood over wrongs. Always just, joyful, and truthful. Knows how to be silent. Full of trust. Always present.

READ
THIS COPY
...
PASS ALONG

Baptist Baptism:

A DECLARATIVE ACT

By-Al Gormley

In the days of John the Baptist, baptism had a very distinct meaning. John would not baptize a person unless that person had repented and turned from their sin. In Matt. 3:11 John says, "I indeed baptize you with water unto (Gk. Eis) or concerning repentance." He would not baptize unless the person showed in their lives the fruits of repentance. This is proven in Matt. 3:8: "Bring forth fruits meet for (concerning) repentance."

However, in this modern age of apostasy and lukewarmness, the true meaning of baptism has slowly deteriorated. Baptist in the past have given their lives to keep this ordinance which was given to the true church—the pillar and ground of the truth. But now, as prophesied in the Bible, there is a departing from the faith and truth is fallen to the ground.

Since baptism declares or pictures salvation then it is important that we know just what salvation is. Salvation means DELIVERANCE. More particularly, a DELIVERANCE FROM SIN. This is called JUSTIFICATION. This simply means that through repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, God justifies us from all sin. (Romans 5:1; Acts 13:38-39). Romans 6:23 tells us "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." By faith a person accepts Jesus as Saviour and Lord and immediately he is saved. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" (John 1:12). "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:26). This same person has been born of the Spirit of God. Every child of God has the spirit of God dwelling within him. (I Cor. 6:19). Paul says in Romans 8:9, "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." There must be a spiritual birth. "Ye must be born again of the Spirit of God," said Jesus in John 3. verses 3 and 5.

The Spirit of God delivers us from the POWER OF SIN. This is a present deliverance. God's children not only have experienced a past deliverance from sin, but also are experiencing a present deliverance. They are being delivered. This is the work of the Holy Spirit within us. Phil. 2:12 says to work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, but verse 13 tells us what this salvation is. "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." So we not only have a salvation FOR US, (Jesus and Him crucified), but also a salvation IN US. The same one who died for us is the same one that is in us. (Col. 1:27, Christ in you, the hope of glory.) This is referred to in the Bible as SANCTIFICATION. We are sanctified immediately when the Spirit takes His abode in our hearts. We are being sanctified progressively. He works in us and we work this salvation out so that the world may see His working in us. This is letting your light shine before

men. But you can't let a light shine until you first have a light. But there is more to salvation than this.

There is a salvation that is yet future. Rom. 13:11 says, "...for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed." I Peter 1:9 says,

"Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls." This is referring to the time when we shall be delivered from the PRESENCE OF SINwhen we shall receive a new body like unto His glorious body. This is what the Bible calls GLORIFICATION. (Rom. 8:30). Therefore, salvation is a PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE deliverance from sin. Baptism, when the meaning is kept according to the way the Lord intended, will picture or declare all three tenses of salvation.

The born again believer—the person saved by grace through faith—is the only person that can make a true picture of the complete salvation given by God in Christ Jesus. In baptism he declares:

1. I have been justified from all my sin (PAST tense.)
2. I have repented (changed my mind), turned from sin, am alive to God and will live my life for Him (PRESENT tense.) Rom. 6:4.
3. I shall one day be raised in His likeness in the resurrection (FUTURE tense.) Rom. 6:5.

Baptism then declares the ETERNAL SECURITY OF THE SAVED. The true believer knows that he is saved and is kept by the power of God. (I Peter 1:5). He knows as Paul knew in II Tim. 1:12, "... for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

Only Baptist believe that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from ALL sin—past, present, and future (I John 1:7). Only Baptist believe that we are justified FROM ALL THINGS (Acts 13:38-39); that there is never a sin charged to the born again believer (Rom. 4:7-8); that when saved the child of God is no longer under the law (Rom. 6:14). Oh, you say, that means you can sin all you want to. You forget that salvation is a present deliverance. God doesn't stop at just saving us from hell and the penalty of sins, but He gives us a NEW NATURE—the NEW MAN Paul calls it in Rom. 7:22, Col. 3:10. The Spirit of God works in every child of God to do of His will and good pleasure (Phil. 2:13). That same Spirit enlightens the eyes of our understanding to the great and precious promises of God that are yet future.

True baptism is Baptist baptism. All others are alien. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II John 8:11).

