

Eisenhower Church of Christ

What Did Paul Mean by Saying “Christ Did Not Send Me to Baptize?”

“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect” (1 Corinthians 1:17).

Sometimes this passage is (improperly) used as a proof-text in order to claim that baptism is not necessary for salvation. The argument goes something like this:

Major Premise—Christ sent me not to baptize.

Minor Premise—Christ sent me to preach the gospel.

Conclusion—Therefore baptism is not part of the gospel and is not necessary for salvation.

Let’s notice what the passage is really all about....

- (1) It is very important to notice the **immediate context** of the passage. 1 Corinthians 1:10-17 is dealing with a report of division and contention among God’s people at Corinth. In particular, this division had to do with some brethren saying, “I am of Paul,” or “I am of Apollos,” Or “I am of Peter,” or “I am of Christ.” Surely the aforementioned individuals had NOT contributed to this problem, but division was occurring nonetheless. Paul was responding to it.
- (2) If Paul were NOT sent to baptize, did he sin by baptizing Crispus, Gaius and the household of Stephanas? (1:14-16). If “Christ did not send me to baptize” carries the force that some erroneously contend, then Paul sinned, or at least was guilty of mighty poor judgement.
- (3) What about the account of the conversion of some Corinthians in Acts 18:8, including Crispus, which says, “And many of the Corinthians, believed and were baptized”? This passage certainly DOES NOT SEEM to minimize baptism.
- (4) What about the many passages that link baptism with the proclamation of the gospel of Christ? (cf. Acts 8:5, 12, 25,35-40; 16:13-15, 31-34).
- (5) If Paul were said in this passage TO HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY SENT to baptize, would this mean that baptism is essential? It is appropriate to then ask, “Wasn’t Paul subject to the teaching of Jesus in the Great Commission?” (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16) The Great Commission **includes** baptism as part of God’s plan of salvation.
- (6) What about the clear teaching of Paul in other places to the effect of baptism’s necessity? (cf. Romans 6:3-6; Galatians 3:26-27, Colossians 2:11-12).
- (7) What about Paul’s own personal experience in Acts 22:16 when he was told by Ananias, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” This certainly appears to give prominence to baptism! Is Paul contradicting his own experience?”
- (8) Since Paul claimed to have been “thankful” (1:14) that he had baptized so few personally, would he have been even more thankful to God had he baptized none? Of course NOT! That’s not the point he is addressing. Neither is it his point to say that baptism is NOT part of the gospel or essential to salvation. The old adage is true: What proves too much proves nothing!
- (9) Notice the importance in 1:10-17 of the phrase “in the name of.” Baptism was to be “in the name of” Jesus—one would identify with and become the absolute and utter possession of Christ (cf. Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38). The reverence and allegiance due to Jesus was NOT to be divided or transferred to anyone—including the human administrator of baptism.
- (10) Paul is saying that he was NOT **personally** sent to baptize, but he was **personally** sent to preach. Just as someone today might out of pride claim, Brother _____ baptized me,” some back then might have been prone to speak with pride about who baptized them. Paul

surely is indicating that the emphasis **must** be kept on the Lord and Savior, NOT what servant who administers baptism.

(11) Paul did NOT put notches in his bible to keep a head count of those he baptized, although he was thankful for each one. There is something to be learned from his example of Christians (especially preachers) today.

(12) In the divine scheme, who baptized whom is secondary (relatively unimportant) compared to hearing and receiving the gospel in humble, loving obedience (Romans 6:16-18).

—Mike Vestal

Baptism

We are happy to announce that **Emry Roan**, a young man who lives in San Saba and attends the church there, was baptized into Christ on Sunday. David Easlon had the privilege of assisting him in becoming a Christian. Emry attends Eisenhower whenever he comes to Odessa to visit his mother. We want to “welcome” our new brother in Christ.

Prayer Request

Please pray for **Cathy Eastwood** who left last Tuesday for the Moody Neuro-Rehabilitation Institute in Lubbock. Cathy will be there for several weeks for treatment. Also pray for her family while they are separated.

We need to keep **Jakob Jenkins** (Terresia Weaver’s grandson) in our prayers. He signed up for six years in the Air Force and has left for basic training. Please pray for Jakob’s safety while serving our country and for his safe return back home.

Concern Update

Jurlean Warren was taken to the MCH-ER last Monday and treated for being nauseated and a heart issue. Jurlean’s heart checked out okay. She was released on Wednesday.

Prayer List

Wayne Anderson; Maria Baeza; Betty Branson; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Mary Clark; LaDonna Chism; Makenna Conner; Cathy Eastwood; Ann Ellison; Mark Erwin; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Lon & Lana Howard; Shane Lester; Charles Lewis; Melissa Moore; Juan & Estella Morolez; Joe Morrison; Rudy Ochoa; Bruce & Trina Plyler; Colton and Corben Sorenson; Alisha Smith; Janice Smith; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; Ron Williams; John Wood,

Eisenhower’s Shut-ins

Glenna Callendar; LaVerne Couch, James & Joyce Drake; Ronda Lyne; Dusty and Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley & Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military and spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Events

Watch “*In Search of the Lord’s Way*” Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9.

Office News

Today is our fourth Sunday, **Potluck Luncheon** following our A.M. service. We want to extend an invitation to our visitors to join us. Our evening service is at 5:00 p.m.

Keep in mind our “**Teacher’s Appreciation Banquet**” at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 22nd in the Annex. Adam Orr will be the guest speaker. Please put your name on a “**Sign Up Sheet**” that’s posted in the foyers if you plan to attend.

The items requested for our “Food Pantry” for weeks 3/26 & 4/2 are: **canned tomatoes and tomato sauce.**

Congratulations... To Jacob and Ashley Carson on the birth of their baby daughter, Moriah Ashley. She was born last Tuesday, March 21st at 1:16 p.m. She weighed 8 lbs. and was 19 3/4 inches long. Again, congrats to the Carsons!

Sixteen Things That Cannot be Done

It is helpful to know our boundaries, so that we do not spend our efforts in attempting things that cannot be accomplished.

1. God’s eternal purpose cannot be overthrown (Acts 5:39).
2. One cannot bear good fruit without Christ. (John 15:5).
3. No person can keep his sins hidden forever (1 Timothy 5:24).
4. No person can live after the flesh and please God (Romans 8:8).
5. A person cannot love God and not love his brother in Christ (1 John 4:20).
6. A person cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24).
7. No one can take anything out of this world (1 Timothy 6:7).
8. After dying, one cannot be saved (Luke 16:26).
9. One cannot make God a liar (Romans 3:4).
10. One cannot enter into Heaven by any other door but Christ (John 10:1-9).
11. One cannot enter in after the door is closed (Luke 13:25-27).
12. One cannot avoid reaping what he has sown (Galatians 6:7-8).
13. One cannot be justified by the law of Moses (Galatians 3:11; 5:4).
14. One cannot be saved by animal sacrifices (Hebrews 9:22; 10:4-12).
15. Man cannot escape death or the judgment (Hebrews 9:27).
16. A Christian who is faithful till death cannot lose his reward (Matthew 10:42; 1 Corinthians 15:58).

Bulletin Digest
Abilene, TX

March 26th, 2023

Announcements
Song Leader
Sermon
Opening Prayer
Scripture
Second Prayer

A.M.

Don Easlon
Oliver Hernandez
Allen Weakland
Don Easlon
Tommy Garcia
Charles Wood

P.M.

Don Easlon
Jon Roemisch
Allen Weakland
Don Easlon
Isaiah Armendarez
Larry May

Closing Prayer

Trini Wood

Gary Loving

Lords Supper

Cody Wesson

Craig Wesson

Phil Halbert

Communion

Larry May

(In Library)

Scot Straw

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Don Easlon 288-5834 *Deacon:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332 —*Pulpit:* David Ryan 512-924-0983 —*Table:* Craig Wesson 934-4633 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 —*Recording Sermons:* Rudy Ochoa 214-0398 — *Collections:* Craig Wesson

Sunday AM

“Commitment”

(Luke 9:23)

Sunday PM

“He Ran”

(Mark 5:1-6)

Our Records

Bible Class... 80

Morning Worship... 108

Evening Worship ... 65

Wednesday... 68

Contribution... \$5,775.09