

THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16

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IS SPRINKLING BAPTISM?

Is baptism a sprinkling? Although there are, no doubt, millions of people who believe that it is, we must very plainly say, **"No, baptism is NOT a sprinkling!"** In fact, **sprinkling water IS NOT a Scriptural practice!** In order for **"baptism"** to be **Scriptural**, it must meet the following requirements which **sprinkling** does NOT meet.

1. MUCH WATER IS REQUIRED! John 3:23 says: **"And John baptized at Aenon near to Salim, BECAUSE there was MUCH WATER there."** Please observe also that John **"baptized"** people **"in the river of Jordan."** (See Mark 1:4-5.) **NOTE: Sprinkling does NOT require MUCH WATER!** Neither is it ordinarily practiced in a RIVER.

2. THERE MUST BE A GOING DOWN INTO THE WATER! Acts 8:38 says: **"... And they went down both into water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him."** **NOTE: Sprinkling does NOT require "going down into the water!" Baptism DOES!**

3. A BURIAL IS REQUIRED! Paul tells us in Romans 6:4 that we are **"buried with him by baptism"** and in Colossians 2:12 we learn that we are **"buried with him in baptism."** **NOTE: Sprinkling is NOT baptism!**

4. THERE MUST BE A RESURRECTION! In Colossians 2:12 the apostle Paul said: **"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."** **NOTE: As Christ was raised up from the dead, "even so we also should walk in newness of life!"** (See Rom. 6:4.)

5. A WASHING OF THE BODY WITH PURE WATER! Hebrews 10:22 says: **"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water."** **NOTE: In sprinkling there is NO washing of the body!**

6. A COMING UP OUT OF THE WATER IS INVOLVED! We learn this from a reading of Acts 8:39. There is **NO coming up out of the water required in sprinkling!**

Baptism is one action and sprinkling is another action! One could as easily **ride** by **WALKING** as he could **baptize** by **sprinkling!**

There is **NO command, statement, example, or necessary implication** in God's Word that authorize sprinkling

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Editorial ...

IMPROPER MOTIVES

The NEW WEBSTER'S DICTIONARY OF The English Language defines the word MOTIVE as "That which incites to action; that which determines the choice or moves the will; cause; object; inducement; prevailing design ..." In other words, MOTIVE is that which determines choice, moves the will and prompts to action. It is the cause for determining choice and action. Motives are very important. We must do the right things with proper motives. We must do the right things for the right reasons!

As we study the subject of "PROPER MOTIVES", let us consider the following facts.

I. HYPOCRITES HAVE IMPROPER MOTIVES! A reading of a few Scriptures should convince us that the motives of hypocrites are improper.

Proverbs 11:9 - "An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbor: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered."

Matthews 15:7-9 - "Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their

heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Matthew 23:5 - "But all their works they do for to be seen of men: ..."

Matthews 23:14 - "Woe unto you, scribes, and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

Also read Mark 12:13-17 & Luke 11:42.

We are warned against hypocrisy! See Luke 12:1; 2 Tim. 4:1-5; James 3:17 & 1 Peter 2:1-2.

II. FLATTERERS ACT WITH IMPROPER MOTIVES! A flatterer is one who praises too much without meaning it, as in order to win favor. The following verses indicate that flatterers have impure motives!

Psalm 12:2 - "They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak."

Proverbs 29:5 - "A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet."

Proverbs 26:28 - "A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin."

Paul and his co-workers were not flatterers. They were prompted by pure motives! (See 1 Thess. 2:3-6.) Beware of flatterers!

III. SOME PEOPLE ARE RELIGIOUS FOR THE WRONG REASONS! Their motive is not to please God! It is not to be a good example! It is not to go to heaven! They may be religious for acceptance with (or by) certain people or for popularity or for business reasons or simply for show! (Cf. Gal. 1:10; John 9:22; John 12:42-43; 1 Tim. 6:10 and Matthew 23:1-33).

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IV. SOME PREACH WITH IMPROPER MOTIVES! In Phil. 1: 15-17 the apostle Paul declared: "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel." This passage clearly indicates that **improper motives** prompted some in the first century to even preach Christ! We learn from Titus 1: 10-11 that "...There are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, especially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things they ought not, FOR FILTHY LUCRE'S SAKE." No doubt, there are many preachers who preach what they do with **impure motives**.

V. SOME MAY WORSHIP, MAY LEAD SINGING, LEAD IN PRAYER, ETC. WITH IMPROPER MOTIVES! They may do these things for a **show**, to impress or **please men** rather than to **please God** and to **glorify Him!** (See Gal. 1: 10; Eph. 6: 5-8; 1 Thess. 4: 1; Acts 5: 29 & 1 Cor. 10: 31).

VI. IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE ALMS BUT OUR MOTIVE MUST BE PURE! Jesus warned: "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 6: 1; Also read verses 2-4). If we do alms to be seen of men and to have glory of men, we will **have no reward of our Father in heaven!**

VII. IT IS RIGHT TO PRAY BUT OUR MOTIVES MUST BE PURE! Jesus warned: "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you. They have their reward." (Matthew 6: 5; Also read verses
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6-13; Matthew 23:14.) If **impure motives** prompt our prayers we will receive **damnation!**

VIII. IT IS RIGHT TO FAST BUT OUR MOTIVES MUST BE PROPER! Jesus warned: "Moreover, when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I unto you. They have their reward." (Matthew 6:16; Also read verses 17-18). If we fast to impress men we have our reward, but it is not a reward of the Father in heaven!

IX. IT IS RIGHT TO OBSERVE THE LORD'S SUPPER BUT WE MUST DO SO WITH THE CORRECT MOTIVE! A study of 1 Cor. 11:23-30 will show that we do so to **discern the Lord's body!** If we eat or drink "**unworthily**", we eat and drink "**damnation**" to ourselves! Our **motives** must be proper!

X. IT IS RIGHT TO SING PSALMS, HYMNS AND SPIRITUAL SONGS BUT WE MUST DO SO FOR THE RIGHT REASONS! A study of Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19 and Hebrews 2:12 will reveal proper reasons for singing!

XI. IT IS RIGHT TO STUDY GOD'S WORD BUT WE SHOULD DO SO FOR THE RIGHT REASONS! Here are some.

(1) To receive **understanding!** Paul said: "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in thy mystery of Christ." (Eph. 3:4)

(2) To rightly **divide the word of truth!** (See 2 Tim. 2:15).

(3) To receive **faith!** (See Romans 10:17).

(4) To be **ready** to give answer to others! (See 1 Peter 3:15; Proverbs 15:28).

XII. IT IS RIGHT TO GIVE BUT WE MUST DO SO WITH PROPER MOTIVES! Paul said: "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth
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IS SPRINKLING BAPTISM?

for **baptism!** In the absence of **authority** in God's Word for **sprinkling**, we dare not practice such!

Sprinkling is an addition to God's Word! It is also a **substitution** for what God has commanded! Hence, it is **SINFUL** and those who teach and/or practice such **DO NOT HAVE GOD!** (See Matthew 7:21-23; Col. 3:17 and 2 John 9).

(CRS)

WAS ABRAHAM JUSTIFIED BY WORKS?

James affirmed that Abraham was justified by works! He declared: "Was not Abraham our father **JUSTIFIED BY WORKS**, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the Scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness; And he was called the Friend of God." (James 2:21-23.)

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a **cheerful giver.**" (2 Cor. 9:7; Also see 1 Cor. 16:2). Proper motives much characterize our giving!

XIII. IT IS RIGHT FOR A PENITENT BELIEVER TO BE BAPTIZED, BUT IT MUST BE FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS! Peter commanded: "...**Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**" (Acts 2:38; Also see Mk. 16:16). **Baptism is not pleasing to God unless it is for the right reason!**

Why do you do what you do? Are your actions prompted by proper motives? Do you do what you do for the right reasons? Let each of US examine OUR hearts and search OUR choices and do the right things with proper motives and for the right reasons!

(CRS)

- SENTENCE SERMONS -

You cannot put your foot in your mouth if it is closed!

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Most of the mountains we climb in life, we build ourselves!

* * * * *

Many people think they're generous because they give free advice!

* * * * *

It seldom occurs to teenagers that someday they will know as little as their parents.

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