



The Little Word “Not”

In the bulletin on May 30th, I wrote an article entitled “Distractions.” In the second paragraph, when pointing out the distractions faced by Christians, I mentioned the “noise” of the world and used Rom. 12:2 to illustrate this. The only problem was I left off the word “not.” I said be conformed to the world instead of “And do not be conformed to this world.” First of all, let me apologize for misquoting the Scripture. Certainly, I had no intention of leaving off this word, which totally changed the meaning of what Paul was teaching. Yet it makes me wonder how many times people deliberately leave off or out words in a text or just ignore them all together.



I ran across a blog page where this blogger said, “Baptism does not Save. Baptism is not a requirement of salvation.” This is amazing in light of what Peter says, “There is also an antitype which now saves us--baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 3:21). The apostle by inspiration plainly says that baptism does indeed save us. I read thirty different translations of this one verse, and they all basically say the same thing, baptism saves. This blogger is totally ignoring what Peter plainly taught.

I have a NIV study Bible, when looking at the footnote on 1 Pet. 3:21, it refers you to the note on Mk. 16:16. That note says, “16:16 In no way does this verse establish baptism as a condition necessary for salvation.” Yet notice that Scripture, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not

believe will be condemned” (Mk. 16:16). The word “and” between believes and is baptized is a coordinating conjunction which tells us that both are necessary to be saved. Certainly, if one does not believe then there would be no need to be baptized. If they were immersed in water, while not believing in the Lord, they would simply be getting wet. The individual-(s) who wrote these footnotes in this Bible rejects what Jesus and Peter said. Amazing!

Not only is belief and baptism necessary, but repentance, confession of one’s faith in Jesus, and faithful living is required as well (Lk. 13:3,5; Matt. 10:32-33; Rev. 2:10, etc.). Does one’s obedience to the gospel message nullify the grace and mercy of God? Does such eliminate what Jesus did for us on the cross when He died for our sins? Not at all! If one is ever saved it will be because of the grace and mercy shown to them by the Father. Grace in giving us what we do not deserve (salvation) and mercy in withholding what we do deserve (condemnation). Paul said it was by our faith we can have access to the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1-2). Obedience to the will of God does not mean one merits or earns salvation as some teach. It is simply doing what the Lord requires so they can benefit from God’s grace and the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. The Lord promises to save the obedient not those living in rebellion to Him (Heb. 5:8-9; Matt. 7:21).

An individual recently said on Facebook that the blood of Christ washes away sin, not the waters of baptism. He quoted Rev. 1:5, which says, “and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.” What he said was partially true. Without the blood of Christ there would be no remission of sin (Heb. 9). What he did not consider was how this blood is applied to the sinner so their sins can be washed away. The application of the blood is when we are buried in the waters of baptism, baptized into His death where His blood was shed and there, we receive its benefits. When we read Rom. 6:3-6, Paul says before baptism



there is the old man of sin and after one is baptized into His death, they then arise a new creature in Christ to walk in newness of life. Before baptism one is dead in sin – after baptism one is no longer a slave to sin, the body of sin has been done away with. Notice in Acts 22:16, what Ananias told Saul to do to wash away his sins, arise and be baptized. Not only can one neglect or add a word to a text to change its meaning, but they can also ignore what other verses clearly teach.

The seriousness of adding to or taking from the Scriptures is abundantly clear. Please read Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. 1:6-9; and Mat. 15:1-9. May we never leave anything out of a verse, add nothing to a verse, neglect what other verses plainly teach, nor twist or distort any part of the Bible to fit what we want it to say. Lord help us to be a people who loves the truth (Ps. 119:103-105; 2 Thess. 2:10).

Jim Mickells



There is a worldly trinity – me, myself and I. The divine trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit.

A big person goes on despite big discouragement!

There must be an emptying before there can be a filling.

The Holy Spirit equips us to keep sin out of our life – through the word of God (Psalm 119:11).

When you know how to die you know how to live!



Sermon Notes

July 25, 2021

Theme: _____ Speaker: _____

Order of Worship July 25, 2021

Song Leader—AM	Steve Frazier
Song Leader—PM	Steve Frazier
Lord's Table	Gary Barber
Sermon—AM	Devin Barber
Sermon—PM	Derek Steen

Continue prayers for those on our list, and for the free course of the gospel.

1 John 5:14

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Meeting times of the church

Sunday 09:00 am Bible Classes 10:00 am Worship 05:00 pm Evening Worship

Wednesday 7:00 pm Bible classes

Evangelist: Devin Barber

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Hebrews 10:24-25