

## What Does the Bible Teach About Denominationalism #2

### Introduction:

- A. In the last lesson, we learned what is wrong with denominationalism and how to explain it to others.
  - 1. Resolve to be a Christian only, avoiding all denominational doctrines, names, and attitudes.
  - 2. Resolve to faithfully follow the word of God in becoming members of Christ's body, the one true church.
- B. The next step is to teach others how to become members of the body of Christ
  - 1. Unfortunately, there have always been those who have perverted some elements of the gospel - Gal. 1:6-9
  - 2. Perversions of the gospel try to save by:
    - a. Complex rituals
    - b. A doctrine of mental assent
    - c. Accepting or de-emphasizing sin.
- C. There are methods of memorizing the gospel that make it easier to teach to others.
  - 1. Elder Walter Scott, born in Scotland (1796), who came to America and preached the gospel in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana and Kentucky.
  - 2. In his study of the gospel, Walter Scott summarized it as consisting of:
    - a) Facts to be believed
    - b) Commands to be obeyed
    - c) Promises to be received
  - 3. Scott is also credited with the memory tool of the five finger exercise means of teaching the commands to be obeyed.

### I. BELIEVE THE FACTS OF THE GOSPEL

- A. That Jesus was crucified for our sins
  - 1. The death of Jesus for our sins is a fundamental part of the gospel - 1Cor. 15:1-3
  - 2. It was foretold by Isaiah - Isa 53:4-6
  - 3. God sent His son to be a propitiation for our sins - 1John 4:9-10
- B. That Jesus was raised from the dead
  - 1. Together with His death and burial, the resurrection of Christ is foundational to the gospel - 1Cor. 15:4
  - 2. In the first gospel sermon recorded, Peter centered his message around proving that God raised Jesus from the dead - Acts 2:22-32
  - 3. Without the resurrection of Christ, the gospel is meaningless - 1Cor. 15:14-19
- C. That Jesus is King and Savior
  - 1. So Peter proclaimed at the climax of his first gospel sermon - Acts 2:33-36
  - 2. All have been put under His feet, and made subject to Him - Eph. 1:20-22; 1Peter 3:22
- D. That Jesus is coming again
  - 1. Prophesied in the Book of Revelation - Rev. 1:7
  - 2. Proclaimed by the two men in white apparel when Jesus ascended to heaven - Acts 1:9-11
  - 3. Purpose of His coming? To execute judgment and be glorified - 2Thes. 1:7-10

### II. OBEY THE COMMANDS OF THE GOSPEL

- A. Believe the gospel of Jesus Christ

1. The first command is to believe.
2. Unless one believes the gospel, there is no hope - Mark 16:15-16
3. The gospel is God's power unto salvation, but only to those who believe - Rom. 1:16
4. Faith is a necessary step leading to salvation - Rom. 10:9-10
  - a. Without faith it is impossible to please God - Heb. 11:6
  - b. Without faith, one will not respond to the other conditions of the gospel; it would be pointless.
5. Does your prospect lack faith? Direct him to the Gospel accounts.
  - a. For they were written to produce faith - John 20:30-31
  - b. Faith comes from hearing the Word of God - Rom. 10:17
6. Ask: "Do you believe the facts of the gospel?"

#### B. Repent of sins

1. To repent means to have a change of mind, in which case one makes the decision to turn from sins and turn toward living for God.
  - a. It is generated by godly sorrow for sins - 2Cor. 7:10
  - b. It will produce a visible change in one's life - 2Cor. 7:11
2. Jesus said that repentance should be preached in His name among the nations - Luke 24:46-47
3. The apostles pressed repentance in their gospel preaching - Acts 2:37-38, 3:19, 17:30-31
4. Ask: "Have you repented of your sins?"

#### C. Confess faith in Jesus as Lord

1. In addition to the command to believe, there is the command to confess Jesus as Lord - Rom. 10:9-10
2. This means to publicly, verbally acknowledge conviction that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, who is King of kings, and Lord of lords
3. An example of such a confession is found in Acts 8:37
4. Without confessing Jesus before men, one has no hope that Jesus will confess him before His Father in heaven - Matt. 10:32-33
5. Ask: "Will you confess that Jesus is the Son of God?"

#### D. Be baptized for the remission of sins

1. Baptism is clearly a part of the gospel message that Jesus wanted His disciples to proclaim - Mark 16:15-16; Matt. 28:18-20
2. Peter proclaimed baptism for the remission of sins in his first sermon - Acts 2:38
3. Paul said he was commanded to be baptized to wash away sins - Acts 22:16
4. Not that there is anything in the act of immersion that merits or earns forgiveness; otherwise ones' dishes and clothes would be saved. But it is simply the point of time in which God by His grace unites one with Christ in His death, and by His working in conjunction with ones' faith raises him to walk in newness of life.
  - a. Rom. 6:3-6 describes baptism as the point in time one is united in the death of Christ at which point he dies to sin and thereby raised to newness of life.
  - b. Col. 2:11-13 reveals that in baptism one is buried with Christ and then raised through faith in God's working that makes him alive in Christ by forgiving him of his sins.
5. Ask: "Have you been baptized for the remission of your sins? If you have not, are you willing to let God cleanse you through the blood of His Son and raise you to a new life?"

E. Be faithful unto death - 1Cor. 15:58

1. Those who gladly received the preaching of the apostles were baptized, and the Lord added them to His church - Acts 2:41, 47.
2. Jesus wanted His disciples to teach others "to observe all things that I have commanded you - Matt. 28:19-20.
  - a. Jesus exhorted the church in Smyrna: "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" - Rev. 2:10.
3. The need for continued faithfulness is paramount:
  - a. For believers can develop an evil heart of unbelief in falling away from God - Heb. 3:12,
  - b. For believers can become hardened through the deceitfulness of sin - Heb. 3:13,
  - c. And believers can have fellowship with Christ only "if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end" - Heb. 3:14.

### III. RECEIVE THE PROMISES OF THE GOSPEL

- A. The Remission of Sins - Eph. 1:7
  1. Ask: "Do you want the assurance that your sins have been forgiven, washed away by the blood of Christ? Then obey the gospel." - Acts 2:38
- B. Enriched by the Blessings in Christ - Eph. 1:3
- C. Guided by the counsel of God - 2Peter 1:2-4
- D. Co-heirs of glory with Jesus Christ - Rom. 8:16-18
- E. Preserved and protected by God - Rom. 8:38-39
- F. Rewarded in Heaven - 1Peter 1:3-5
- G. The Gift of Eternal Life
  1. Matt. 25:46; Rom. 6:22-23, 2:5-8; John 17:2-3, 10:10
  2. Ask: "Do you want the abundant eternal life that far surpasses the shallow life of sin in this world and holds the assurance of life in heaven with God forever?"

#### Conclusion:

- A. These wonderful promises (and there are many more) can be received by anyone who is willing to heed and accept the call of the gospel of Christ. Those who do, will not only receive these blessings, but they will also be added by the Lord to His church, that great assembly of disciples redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.
- B. Have you accepted the call of the gospel? Have you believed the facts of the gospel, obeyed the commands of the gospel, and received the promises of the gospel?
- C. It is possible that you have only obeyed some of the commands of the gospel.
  1. If you did less than, or if you did more than the commands of the gospel, then you are not saved.