

OPINION VERSES FACT

There are many in our world today who are ignorant of God's word, but will really give you their opinion. Then the question is: What is their opinion worth when it comes to one's eternal salvation? Absolutely nothing. The only thing that will lead a soul from this old world of sin and disappointment is the word of God. That's right! The Bible is Man's roadmap to Heaven! You see, Jesus said the word I have spoken, the same shall judge you at the last day. John 12:48

There is indeed going to be a final judgment wherein few will be saved.

1. Those redeemed by the Blood of Christ.
2. Little children who don't know right from wrong.
3. Those who are mentally incompetent, regardless of their age.

When one becomes a Christian, he must understand God's plan of redemption.

In Matthew 7:13-14 Jesus said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

So there you have it! Jesus said, many would be lost and few saved.

How does one become saved?

Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:1-5 that he must be born of water and of the Spirit or he could not enter into the kingdom of God.

Now about 75 percent of the world don't understand why there is water in God's redemption plan, so they try leaving it out. Some say pray your way through, wrong! Some say water has nothing to do with salvation, wrong! Some say water baptism is to show the world you're changed, wrong! Some say, and the list goes on and on and on and on. What does the word of God say about water baptism?

1. Romans 6:3 Baptized into Christ's death. Christ shed His blood in His death. When the soldier thrust his spear in our Lord's side, out flowed Blood and Water. Who can separate the blood from the water? You go into the water to contact the blood.
2. Galatians 3:27 "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." We become like Him in baptism; that's why we are called Christians.
3. Colossians 1:14 tells us we are redeemed by the blood of Christ. All sins forgiven (bought back)
4. Acts 2:38 Those who heard the first gospel message on Pentecost were told to repent and be baptized for forgiveness (remission) of sins and 3000 obeyed.
5. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus commanded His disciples to teach all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.
6. 1 Peter 3:21 baptism saves. Just as Noah and his family were saved by water, we are saved by water today.
7. In mark 16:16 Jesus said he that believeth the preaching of His disciples and is baptized shall be saved.

To all who believe one is saved before baptism; look the scriptures up. Where baptism and salvation are mentioned together, you will find that salvation always comes after one is baptized.

Salvation never comes before baptism.

- A. Mark 1:4 John baptized for remission of sins.
- B. Mark 16:16 Believe and is baptized shall be saved.
- C. Acts 2:38 Baptize for remission of sins.
- D. Acts 22:16 Arise be baptized and wash away thy sins.
- E. 1 Peter 3:21 Baptism doth also now save us.

(Acts 22:16) The Apostle Paul gives his account of being stricken blind on the Damascus Road. Lead into the city where he prayed for three days, was blind and fasting. Then a preacher, by the name of Ananias, sent by the Lord, said to Paul, why tarriest thou? Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins calling on the name of the Lord.

Don't try to pray through, the Apostle Paul couldn't; although he prayed for three days. Also we must understand God don't hear sinner's prayers.

1. John 9:31 tells us we know God heareth not sinners.
2. Proverbs 15:29 The Lord is far from the wicked; but he heareth the prayers of the righteous.
3. Psalms 34:16 The face of the Lord is against them that do evil.
4. Isaiah 59:1-2, "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid *his* face from you, that he will not hear."

I certainly hope these few scriptures from the Book of Life have helped everyone to understand God's ways are much higher than our ways, as the heavens is above the earth, His ways are higher than our ways, and His thoughts above our thoughts.

Don't sign your name on the barn door! Obey the gospel and the Lord will write your name down in the Lamb's Book of Life.

To obey the gospel one must:

1. Hear the gospel – Romans 10:17
2. Believe the gospel – Hebrews 11:6
3. repent of sin – Luke 13:3
4. Confess Christ to be our Savior – Matthew 10:32
5. Baptized into His death – Romans 6:3; Acts 2:38
6. Live faithful unto death and receive everlasting life – Revelation 2:10

Now isn't the new birth simple to obey? Don't follow after the teachings of man; man doesn't know the way to Heaven. He came to earth, walked among us over 33 years and is now gone back to Heaven, seated at the right hand of God the Father.

Your choice: Follow man or follow Jesus Christ. I'll be praying that you obey the gospel while there is still time.

– Jimmy Ferguson