*Gospels**

Mark 6:1-6 (1) And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him.
(2) And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?
(3) Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of **James,** and **Joses,** and of **Juda,** and **Simon**? and are not his **sisters** here with us? And they were offended at him.
(4) But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.
(5) And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.
(6) And he marvelled because of their **unbelief**. And he went round about the villages, teaching.
Unbelief is a character flaw describing a skeptic who doubts the truth of the word! I completely understand being skeptic of Idols, Islam and false science, but unbelief in the only begotten Son of God is unthinkable. Unto which of the angels said he at any time?, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee (Heb 1:5). *Shall unbelief make faith in Christ ineffective? No!, not for believers.*
I want to consider briefly the family of Jesus. Passages in the New Testament provide evidence that Jesus had brothers and sisters who were born to Joseph and Mary sometime after the virgin birth of Jesus. In the gospels of Matthew and Mark are recorded the names of the brothers of Jesus and confirm that He also had sisters. Did the Lord have family ties in the traditional way? He was born of a virgin, so in that respect He did not, however Joseph did raise Him as his Son. But did Jesus have brothers and sisters? The usual word in the Greek

language for "brother" is ***adelphos****. It possesses the same latitude of application that the English word possesses. Hence, it can refer to a person who shares the same religion--a spiritual brother. It can refer to a person who shares the same citizenship--a fellow countryman. It can refer to an intimate friend or neighbor. All of these uses are self-evident, and do not encroach upon the literal use of the term, "brother." By far the most prominent use of the term is the literal sense--a blood brother or half-brother, the physical son or daughter of one's own mother and/or father. With reference to the physical siblings of Jesus, concerning the children of Joseph and Mary conceived after the birth of Christ, the literal sense is clearly the view intended in the scriptures read at the beginning of our lesson. Even a casual reading of these verses demonstrates that Jesus had literal, physical brothers and sisters. The only reason the face-value importance of these verses would be questioned is because of the post facto doctrine sustained by the Apostate Church of the perpetual virginity of Mary. Unbelief prevails on many fronts, the brothers and sisters of Jesus are no exception. The Apostle Paul understood that James was a literal brother of the Lord (Gal 1:19). It is reassuring to know that Jesus experienced family ties. He had four brothers and at least two sisters. His brothers names are James, Joses, Juda, and Simon. He experienced what it was like to work with His hands as a carpenter. He experienced joy and sorrow. In normal fleshly matters, Christ was not much different than we, for He was a partaker of earthly experiences.* Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; (Heb 2:14). *The gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John reveal the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Apostle Paul made the purpose of Christ clear when he wrote to the Corinthians,* how that Christ died for our

sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1Cor 15:3-4). *Concerning Christ's genealogy in the first chapter of Matthew, it obviously would form the most natural transition from the old covenant to the new covenant.* Mark 1:1 *is this profound proclamation;* the beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. *Then* Mark 16:16 *says;* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. *Now some contend the gospels belong in the old covenant, if that were true, then, the ordinance of baptism would have been nailed to the cross* (Col 2:14). *Where and how, then, were our redemption?*

Before His crucifixion Jesus stated His intention that His word be confirmed, turn with me to;

John 14:23-26 (23) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.
(24) He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.
(25) These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.
(26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

After His crucifixion, the promise was stated again, turn to;

Acts 1:7-9 (7) And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
(8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
(9) And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he

was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. *The gospels are accurate accounts of all that Jesus began both to do and teach until the day in which he was taken up (Acts 1:1-2). The intent was to convert people to Him, not to the old ordinances. Early Christians recognized that there was only one gospel. Matthew wrote his gospel to a Jewish audience, he presented Jesus as the true King, the promised Messiah. Mark wrote his gospel primarily to a Roman audience that wanted a man of action, he focused on what Jesus did. Luke wrote his gospel primarily to a Greek audience that were moved by the tender side of Jesus, healing the sick and gathering children in His arms. John wrote his gospel to present Jesus as one with God, he wanted his message to be clear enough that anyone reading it would be drawn to Christ. But many Jews did not accept Him as the Messiah and cast aside His teachings. Where do the gospels belong? Do the gospels belong in the old ordinances because there are words spoken therein by Jesus before His crucifixion? Jesus authored two ordinances, His memorial and baptism. Both are recorded in the gospels and are foundational doctrines of the Churches of Christ. His memorial was instituted before His crucifixion, if it belongs in the old ordinances, why do we contend for its observance? Jesus authored the ordinance of baptism after His resurrection, where does it belong, in the old or in the new? The gospels were written after the Holy Ghost had come upon the Apostles, after the crucifixion, not under former times when the law given by Moses was in force. The ordinance of baptism established by Jesus, is it part of the old ordinance or a new testament ordinance? If part of the new, it cannot be delegated to the old. Jesus delegated baptism in Mark16:16 and in Acts 2:38 was in full force. However we are not going to stop with these two verses, there are many more and we want you to believe and convinced of the truth. But of necessity we will start with faith;* So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God,

"Romans 10:17." *Should not this be the guiding force in our lives? Faith that cometh by hearing the word of God. Therefore speak with the power contained within the very words Jesus Christ spoke!* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. *If baptism is not necessary for salvation, then neither is belief, for both are qualifying factors that are joined together by the word "**and**" which is used to connect coordinating words, phrases or clauses, and has further meaning of, **together with**, **as well as**, **in addition to**, **besides**, **also**, and **moreover**. Listen, If Baptism is not necessary, then how could the promised gift be received?* Then Peter said unto them, 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."
If baptism is not necessary, then what was the purpose of gladly receiving the word? Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls, "Acts 2:41."
If baptism is not necessary, did they believe the preaching of Philip? But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women, "Acts 8:12."
If baptism is not necessary for salvation, then what purpose did the Eunuch achieve when he went down into the water with Philip and was baptized? And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him, "Acts 8:38."
In all actuality, for all intents and purposes, if one is not baptized according to the command of Jesus, there is no hope. The Apostle Paul was commanded to be baptized, are all other people any better than he? Or should other people be exempt from the requirements that he was subjected to? And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord, "Acts 22:16."

If baptism is not necessary, then how could one put on Christ? For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ, "Galatians 3:27."
If baptism is not necessary, then what is the answer of a good conscience toward God? The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:, "1Peter 3:21."
The doctrine, "baptism is not necessary" is a doctrine of satan, delegated by man and is false to the core. Nowhere in the gospel are there words that will validate, "baptism is not necessary." I challenge you to find in the Bible the phrase "baptism is not necessary to be saved."
If the gospel call of "baptism" based upon faith in Christ is disregarded, then one has denied the grace of God, has squandered his spiritual blessings in Christ, and has put the crucifixion of Christ to naught. We have read several scriptures pertaining to baptism, there are more and all are a continuation of the gospel as recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, revealed to the Apostles by the Holy Ghost.
If baptism is not necessary, then how is the old man crucified? Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin, "Romans 6:6."
I marvel there is so much unbelief in the one baptism established by Christ. How can baptism be literally plucked out of a scriptural command?, deemed not necessary?, while keeping the remainder of the command intact? Now it is true we are to rightly divide the word of truth, however we have not received authority to pluck out a command. I once heard of a man who made the claim, "baptism is not in my bible." In the literal sense his statement was true. He had cut the word baptism out of his bible on every page that it was found. He claimed to have a Holy Bible after the alteration, but in reality all he had a book full of holes. Men do not have

authority to make alterations, neither in the old law or in the faith in Christ. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it (Deut 12:32). *That command is from the old, our admonishment are words spoken by Christ that come from the gospel according to John;* If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15).
Paul wrote, For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16).
All heavenly blessings are in Christ through the faith of the operation of God. That our old man of sin was crucified with Him in the act of baptism by faith cannot be denied. The gospel of Christ that began in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John is affirmed throughout the remaining books of the new testament. The Church that Christ said He would build in Matthew, we find John writing letters to in the book of Revelation. Furthermore, changing in any way the gospel of Christ, is condemned by Paul in his writing to the Galatians. The ***"power"*** *is proclaimed in the gospel of John and the book of Romans. The word, "gospel", is recorded in Matthew, Mark, Luke, Acts, Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Thessalonians, Timothy, Philemon, Hebrews, Peter and Revelation. The word "gospel" is not in the old testament nor is it applied therein. Furthermore we would not know these words Jesus spoke, "blaspheme against the Holy Ghost" that is found only in the gospels of Matthew and Mark. More importantly, the Mosiac law is fulfilled and finished according to the Gospel of Matthew and John, confirmed in Hebrews. Turn with me first to;*
Matthew 5:17-18 (17) Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.
(18) For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.
John 19:28-30 (28) After this, Jesus knowing that all things

were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.
(29) Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a spunge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.
(30) When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.
Hebrews 8:6-13 (6) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.
(7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.
(8) For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:
(9) Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.
(10) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:
(11) And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.
(12) For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.
(13) In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.
Christ is the author and finisher of our faith and He wanted people to know what to do to be saved and what to expect if they chose otherwise. One can accept salvation on the terms demanded by Jesus or not. It is an individual eternal

decision. But how can it be that Jesus Christ, who taught so strongly the importance of love and forgiveness, could speak such words as eternal damnation? Actually, Jesus had more to say about hell and eternal punishment than any other speaker or writer in the Bible. Since He is the Creator, the coming Judge, and the divine who died and risen permanently from the dead, we would do well to believe and heed His warnings. He speaks to the end, how can His words be delegated to the past! Turn to;

Matthew 13:49-50 (49) So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just,

(50) And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

1John 2:15-17 (15) Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

(16) For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

(17) And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

I pray to God that we may receive strength to overcome the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life. These three things if allowed to rule in ones life, most likely, will cause unbelief and if unchecked, his name will not be found in the Lamb's Book of Life. But He that overcometh and will obey from the heart the gospel of Christ shall receive a crown of life. There are other such warnings from Christ, but how can we reconcile such concepts of everlasting doom with His own nature of love? The fact is, however, that everlasting fire was prepared for the devil and his angels (Matt 25:41). *The devil has been a rebel against God since the beginning, so when people follow the devil in this same rebellious path, rejecting God's Word, they are showing they prefer to be with*

Satan than with Christ in eternity, therefore they shall be. But Christ, because of His great love has repeatedly warned of what is coming, and so should we. So what is coming and what should one expect?? Christ answers both sides of the question, its in the gospel according to;

Matthew 25:31-34 and 41(31) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:
(32) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:
(33) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.
(34) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:
(41) Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, **prepared for the devil and his angels:**

How can I persuade you to avoid this curse prepared for the devil? You can and will avoid damnation if you garner a faith that is the effect of belief in the gospel of Christ, concluding in and submitting to baptism. Those who first believe the testimony of God, by faith repent of their sins, confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and are baptized into Him for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the gospel. If you are not a baptized believer the invitation is always open, also prayer requests for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.

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