Messes*

Luke 16:19-31 (19) There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:
(20) And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,
(21) And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.
(22) And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;
(23) And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
(24) And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.
(25) But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.
(26) And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.
(27) Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:
(28) For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.
(29) Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.
(30) And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.
(31) And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

Mr. Rich had gotten himself into a terrible mess. He had messed things up so badly between himself and God that he desperately looked to Abraham for a solution. There is no doubt Mr. Rich was serious when he asked Abraham for help, but could Abraham help? No he could not! Was there a reason Mr. Rich asked Abraham for help? Yes there was! He was desperate! Perhaps he had remembered Abraham asking God to spare Sodom if there were five righteous people found there. Were five found? No there were not! Neither will there be a reversal of judgment. If only Mr. Rich had realized that;

Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise? (Matt 21:16). *Oh how this would have helped Mr. Rich! I have an example I want to share with you. It goes something like this. A kindergarten class went to the fire station for a tour and some instruction in fire safety. The fireman was explaining what to do in case of a fire. He said, "first go to the door and feel the door to see if it is hot." Then he said, "fall to your knees!, does anyone know why you should fall to your knees?" One of the little tykes answered, "sure, to start praying and ask God to get us out of this mess." If only Mr. Rich had learned this lesson long ago, before his sin mess advanced beyond the point of no return. If only Mr. Rich had been a righteous man who loved his neighbor asking for food at his gate. Listen, good works are an attribute, however without obedient faith even they will not stand alone. Please turn to;*

James 2:15-17 (15) If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,
(16) And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?
(17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
According to James, a "faith only" religion is not enough. In light of this, consider the doctrine that asks a sinner to, "pray

through" for their salvation, will that work? Well, listen to this; Now we know that **God heareth not sinners**: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth (John 9:31). *Salvation by the so-called sinners prayer will not work because it cannot replace obedient faith. But what if a man truly wants salvation by grace? Will prayer help him? There is a biblical example but read carefully. Turn to;*
Acts 10:1-6 (1)There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,
(2) A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.
(3) He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.
(4) And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.
(5) And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:
(6) He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.
The prayers of Cornelius did came up for a memorial. God knew the sincerely of Cornelius and provided an Angel to direct Cornelius to Peter who then revealed what Cornelius should do. "Praying through" was not Peter's answer to receive salvation. Lets read what Peter actually said to Cornelius, turn to;
Acts 10:34-36,44-48 (34)Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
(35) But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.
(36) The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)
(44) While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

(45) And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.
(46) For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,
(47) Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?
(48) **And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord**. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.
If Peter told Cornelius to pray the sinners prayer for salvation, I must have missed it. What about the people who know their life is a mess and want to change, can they? Turn with me to;
Romans 10:13-15 (13) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
(14) How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?
(15) And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
The preacher of Christ will teach that 'calling on Him' is through belief and obedience to His precepts. And in these latter days the Lord has provided a way for all to know Him. It has been written and bound in a book, but it still needs to be preached. Turn to;
Hebrews 8:10-11 (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.
The Holy Word of God in book form has been the best seller world-wide, and within it's scriptural precepts it becomes evident that God will cause the word to be readily available to

anyone who wants salvation by grace.
But so many do not believe the words of Jesus recorded in;
Mark 16:14-20 (14) Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they say at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.
(15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every ceature.
(16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
(17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
(18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
(19) So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.
(20) And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs following**. Amen.
Jesus scolded the eleven for their unbelief (v14) and laid this charge on them, that signs were to follow them that believe (v17). And they, the eleven, with the help of the Lord, preached every where confirming the word with signs following. Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God (Hebrews 10:7). *His will is to prevent people from making a mess of their life. He said* If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15). *In the example of fire instruction the fireman said, "feel the door to see if it is hot". Mr. Rich must have been so engrossed in;* lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; *that he was unable or unwilling to feel the door. Whatever the reason, he had been warned that;* The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God (Psalm 9:17). And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments (Luke 16:23). *Mr. Rich*

realized no help was coming, he asked Abraham to go warn his brothers. Abraham's answer; neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead (Luke 16:31). *Jesus rose from the dead and He said;* for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: (Matt 7:13). *Feel the door in obedient faith to the Gospel of Christ. You see, just feeling the door in faith only without obedience is not enough to satisfy the requirements of the gospel for salvation, the Lord demands obedience. How can one know? Let's turn to;*

James 2:17-24 (17) Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.
(18) Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.
(19) Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.
(20) But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?
(21) Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
(22) Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
(23) 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.
(24) Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and **not by faith only.**

Ephesians 2:8-10 (8) For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:
(9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.
(10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

It is true that we cannot save ourselves by any meritorious

works of our own. However we are to walk in the good works God hath ordained. These good works ordained by God conform to the gift of grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). *Not only did grace come by Jesus Christ but also truth came by him. So you see, by grace ye are saved through faith in Jesus Christ, by;* Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:2). *And just what is the teaching of Jesus Christ that will lift oneself out of a mess of sin? Jesus said,* He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned (Mark 16:16). *His Apostle's had taught this ordinance beginning on Pentecost;* 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). 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). *Throughout the entire ministry of all the Apostles, the message never changed, it was stated;* 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). Now I realize I have selected several scriptures singular by choice. I advise you to study as far above and below each scripture as you please so that faith may prevail. You will find nothing above or below that will distract from the meaning, but enhances the meaning of;* One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (Ephesians 4:5). *How can one pick the one baptism out of the many we read about? Actually the answer is quite simple, it's the one ordained by Jesus. When one obeys the conditions of faith that is the effect of belief, which is repentance by faith, confession and baptism by faith, he shall be saved. This is the one baptism of Ephesians 4:5, that is*

ordained in Mark 16:16 and elsewhere. He that believes not in the conditions leading up to and including baptism shall not be saved. There is a belief that teaches salvation apart from baptism, even tho baptism may come afterward, but it is not the one baptism of Ephesians 4:5 and Mark 16:16 and must be revoked. There are scriptural reasons to accept the one baptism of Ephesians 4:5 and Mark 16:16 over all others. Listen, the baptism of John is not the one baptism that is required for salvation, why is that? Please turn to;
Acts 19:3-5 (3) And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.
(4) Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.
(5) When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
John's baptism was for the nation of Israel in preparation for the Lord. It was a baptism of repentance that they should believe on Christ Jesus. The baptism established by Christ is for remission of sin and therefore salvation, and inclusion into the Kingdom. It is for all tribes, tongues and nations. What about modern beliefs of baptism. From a web page I found the following (quote); Christian baptism to be an ordinance for believers only, by immersion only, and as a symbolic act, not having any power in itself. The act of baptism pictures what Christ has done for the believer in His death, burial, and resurrection. It pictures what Christ has done for the believer through the new birth, enabling death to the old life and newness of life to walk in. Baptism gives testimony to a salvation already received; it is not a requisite for salvation. It is an act of obedience to Jesus Christ. *(unquote) Is this statement correct? Not at all! Brethren, everyone should challenge their baptism if it is not a requisite for salvation. There is authority to do so;* Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false

prophets are gone out into the world (1Jo 4:1).
***Challenge**; Baptism does not have any power in itself.*
Romans 1:16 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.
John 1:12-13 (12) But as many as received him, to them gave he **power** to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name.
(13) Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
*The power of baptism is unlike any other power on earth because it is part of the gospel of Christ, the power of God unto salvation. Jesus said, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*." Can one challenge Jesus successfully?*
***Challenge**; Baptism is a testimonial to salvation already received.*
1Peter 3:21 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:
Salvation is in Christ and baptism puts one into Christ through the faith of the operation of God. If one is baptized for a testimony only, it is not the one baptism established by Christ. Jesus nor His Apostle's ever taught "baptism is a testimony for salvation already received".
***Challenge**; Baptism is not a requisite for salvation.*
Romans 6:4-6 (4) Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.
(5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:
(6) 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.

Mark 16:15-16 (15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
(16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
Iranaeus 120-205 AD Thus there are as many schemes of "redemption" as there are teachers of these mystical opinions. And when we come to refute them, we shall show in its fitting-place, that this class of men have been instigated by Satan to a denial of that baptism which is regeneration to God, and thus to a renunciation of the whole Christian faith.
Why do men mess with the gospel by teaching their mystical schemes? We have to call it just as Jesus did. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch (Matthew 15:14). *Denying the baptism ordained by Christ is to deny the Lord. Listen, one should do this;* Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: (2Peter 1:10).
Because of the peerless value of the death of Christ, God is offering to all the blessings of salvation on a grace basis by faith in Christ. But what is faith? Faith in Christ is the effect of belief in His gospel, and baptism is the effect of faith in that gospel; only those who first believe the testimony of God, then by faith repent of their sins, and by faith confess Jesus Christ and by faith are baptized into His death for remission of sins, have the full and explicit testimony of pardon. This is the power of the gospel. Do you believe, perfect your faith with works ordained by God, come repenting, confess Jesus Christ and be baptized into Him for remission of your sins. Or if prayer is needed for other reasons, in either case come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
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