

John T. Polk II, Editor

All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

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Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com
QUESTION: If I am already a church member and have been baptized, why should I change?

ANSWER: Ask: Into what church were you baptized?

1. The word "church" simply means "assembly." In Scripture, it was used of the assembly of silversmiths "who made silver shrines of...the great goddess Diana" (**Acts 19:24, 27, 32, 41**). Jesus Christ promised to build His "church" (**Matthew 16:18**), and after His resurrection, daily added the saved to it beginning on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:38, 40-41, 47**). He, later, named the disciples in His church "Christians" (**Acts 11:26**). **It is not important to be "a member of a church," but crucial to be in His church.** Every "assembly," or "church" is not related to Jesus Christ, but the "churches of Christ" (**Romans 16:16**) are! Since "Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body" (**Ephesians 5:23**), then the church of Christ is only made of souls who have been saved by His Gospel! *Naming everything or everybody "Christian" profanes that name, for God used it only of those in the church of Christ.* Are you in "a church," or the "church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven" (**Hebrews 12:23**)?

2. The first time the Gospel of Christ was preached in its entirety was the day of Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection and ascension back into Heaven. Then people were told to, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (**Acts 2:38**). When Philip joined the eunuch's chariot and "preached Jesus to him" (**Acts 8:35**), the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" (**Acts 8:36**) The Holy Spirit taught the meaning of baptism through the Apostle Paul: "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life" (**Romans 6:3-4**). That's why, when Paul "came to Ephesus" and found "some disciples" who had been taught "only the baptism of John" [the Baptist, (**Acts 18:25**) *jtpII*], his question was, "Into what then were you baptized?" (**Acts 19:3**) Only the baptism "in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" puts one into Christ, where "redemption through His blood" (**Ephesians 1:7**) can be administered. *Someone who claims salvation before being baptized, or is baptized for any other reason than to be saved, or has not been buried in the act of baptism, is still in need of salvation through Jesus Christ.* When Paul corrected those Ephesians who had been baptized with misunderstanding, "they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (**Acts 19:5**). And so should all today who have mistakenly been baptized! Into what were you baptized? --*jtpII*

- ~ "In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." – Abraham Lincoln
- ~ "In three words, I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." – Robert Frost
- ~ "Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present." – Bill Keane
- ~ "It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light." – Aristotle



The Christian Worker

Although your work isn't seen by all
Nor recognized with special name call;
Our Lord knows and sees each deed.
He sees each detail and planted seed.

We thank our Lord for you so much;
The ways you serve, your special touch.
We see Christ's love in what you do;
For how you serve we say, "Thank You"!

- Selected

Eunices, Loises, and Timothy's!

Thanks be to God for all the godly mothers of this congregation. Consider how many faithful children of God there are today who were influenced to serve Christ by a godly mother and grandmother. Many Christian parents, gospel preachers, faithful elders and deacons, Bible teachers, and other faithful members could say that "mother" was the major influence on them in obeying Christ.

Consider Timothy. Timothy was a young soldier of Christ and preacher of the Gospel (2 Tim. 2:3; 4:1-5). His mother and grandmother had a powerful influence upon him, as Paul's words indicate: "I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also" (2 Tim. 1:3-5).

The Scriptures, which Timothy knew from childhood, were the source of his unfeigned faith (Rom. 10:17). The Bible states: "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 3:14-15). No doubt, Eunice had a godly mother in Lois, and Timothy had a godly mother in Eunice, who were concerned about instilling a knowledge and respect for God and His Word into their children.

Parents and grandparents, the next time we are tempted to miss Worship or Bible Study, to neglect to pray with our children at home, to fail to teach our children the Word of God, or to not seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness in any other way (Mat. 6:33), consider Timothy! "Timothy's" do not happen by accident, they are molded by hearts and hands that are devoted to God! We thank the Father in heaven for parents and grandparents like Lois and Eunice, and for godly children like Timothy! "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim. 2:3).

- Danny Douglas

Ten Ways to Love

1. Listen without interrupting (Proverbs 1:8).
2. Speak without accusing (James 1:19).
3. Give without sparing (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting (Proverbs 13:12).



- Selected



By Dan Jenkins

Preaching That Causes Men to Tremble

In my life I have preached over 10,000 sermons, and sometimes I may lose sight of the purpose of preaching. We are told to preach the word, to teach and use those precious moments to convince, rebuke and exhort with a longsuffering heart (2 Tim. 4:2). God describes the focus of preaching as being edification, exhortation and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3).

The pulpit must never center on favorable acceptance by those who hear, but on men being brought into the presence of God as He uses preachers to accomplish His results. The prophets of old often used the word "tremble" as they described their place in His work. Joel said, "Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming" (Joel 2:1). Isaiah gives even more insight as to what to preach and the desired response. "Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word" (Isa. 66:5).

If my purpose in preaching is to cause the ungodly to tremble, how is this to be accomplished? Perhaps the clearest answer is found on that occasion when Paul's preaching caused some in his audience to tremble. With his destiny at stake, he stood before Felix, the Roman governor. Drusilla, his wife, sat beside him. It was her second or third marriage and

Felix had used a magician to persuade her to leave her husband to marry him. What would you have said in this situation? Paul did not seek to gain favor and thereby to waste such an opportunity. His sermon had three major points and at the end of that sermon the arrogant, sinful ruler trembled.

Felix trembled because Paul preached about righteousness. Paul knew of the life of this ruler and how ungodly he was. Even governors do not have the authority to define and decide what is right and what is wrong. Paul's sermon began by teaching this truth to that king.

Felix trembled because Paul talked about self-control and temperance. The history of this governor is of one exercised by a lack of self-control. The evidence sat beside him, and this was precisely what the ruler needed to hear. Nothing else, even his release from prison, mattered to the apostle.

Felix trembled because Paul talked about the coming judgment. It is God who defines righteousness; it is man who must let God control his life; it is God who holds us accountable. Every man will eventually stand before God to be judged. Only this kind of preaching can cause men to tremble!

Felix wanted to hear more. Both God and Paul accomplished what happened that day. Preachers, think about this. Preach the word. Use every opportunity. Let God and his word decide the outcome!

The purpose of preaching is not to gain favor but to cause men to tremble

Listen to These Women of God

Every woman who has walked with God has a story to tell.

- * Sarah will tell you nothing is too hard for God.
- * Hagar will tell you God always sees you.
- * Rahab will tell you your past doesn't define you; God can use anyone.
- * Hannah will tell you God answers prayer.
- * Ruth will tell you it's not over until God says it's over.
- * Esther will tell you to trust God; He will exalt you in His timing.
- * Mary will tell you it's always worth it to listen to Jesus.
- * Tabitha will tell you no talent is too small to do great things for God.
- * Phoebe will tell you there's a place for you in the Lord's church.

- Selected (with additions by Edd Sterchi)

THEOPHILUS

