

The Fellowship Room

Words of Wisdom by [John T Polk II](#)
For [WECO FM 101.3](#) and [The Fellowship Room](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

1-02-2017 A Beginning or Ending Year

Israel's Promised Land was:

... A land for which the LORD your God cares; the eyes of the LORD your God are always on it, from the beginning of the year to the very end of the year (**Deuteronomy 11:12**).

The "end of the year" was as important as "the beginning of the year," to God. The beginning is filled with anticipation, hope, and promise. Paul told the Corinthian Christians:

It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have (**2 Corinthians 8:10-11**).

It does no good to still want to do what we wanted to do a year ago. We must do it!

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1-03-2017 John's Baptism

At his birth, it was prophesied of John (known as "the Baptist"):

You will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, To give knowledge of salvation to His people By the remission of their sins (**Luke 1:76-77**).

The Apostle John describes him as:

A man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe (**John 1:6-7**).

As an adult, John:

... Went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins (**Luke 3:3**).

John the Baptist was sent to preach to the Jews "remission of sins," by believing in Jesus as the Christ. Did any Jew "claim" their "remission of sins" before, and without, "a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins?"

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1-04-2017 Moses' Baptism

Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea (**1 Corinthians 10:1-2**).

Paul wrote this to the church:

... With all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours (**1 Corinthians 1:2**).

Since:

Many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized (**Acts 18:8**),

and

The Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (**Acts 2:47**),

God adds no one to the church before obeying His Gospel. No Israelite could claim freedom from Egypt before, and without, being "baptized into Moses." So, no Corinthian could claim freedom from sin and membership in the church before, and without, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ. If not, why not?

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1-05-2017 Jesus' Baptism

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**).

Can anyone be saved before, and without, Jesus' death? Of course, not! Should anyone claim to be saved before, and without, "baptism into His death?" Of course, not! All who claim to be saved, and be in Christ, before they were "baptized into His death" must be claiming to be saved before, and without, the death of Jesus Christ! Paul warned,

Even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed (**Galatians 1:7-8**).

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1-06-2017 Who Is In Christ?

And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. (**John 6:40**).

After His resurrection, Jesus added His baptism to belief:

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (**Mark 16:16**).

Paul wrote to the Galatians:

But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man (**Galatians 1:11**),

and added:

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ (**Galatians 3:26-27**).

According to Jesus, none are saved before baptism, and according to Paul, none are children of God before being "baptized into Christ." Are you "in Christ?"

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