
Aren't All Believers Christians? by John T Polk II

QUESTION: Why do you feel people who believe in Jesus, and have already been saved, are not Christians?

ANSWER: What I *feel* has nothing whatever to do with what I preach and teach. And no one has been saved by their own understanding, but without doing what Jesus commands!

A. Feelings do not establish doctrine. Jesus said:

"In vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men." (**Mark 7:7**) Later, Paul taught: "For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus' sake" (**2 Corinthians 4:5**). So the commandment is: "Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." (**2 Timothy 4:2-4**)

*There is a clear distinction drawn between "the word" of God and what people desire to hear taught to them. What we feel we would like to hear is changeable, selfish, and ungodly. Without sound doctrine, we would be "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting" (**Ephesians 4:14**). No one in the churches of Christ determines "the word" to be preached.*

B. Paul told the Ephesian Elders:

"Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God" (**Acts 20:26-27**). The "whole

counsel of God" included Paul baptizing men who had already been baptized! The Ephesian church began with 12 men who had been baptized in John's baptism, which no longer had any merit whatsoever. As Paul explained: "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus" (**Acts 19:4-5**). Paul wrote to that church:

"*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all*" (**Ephesians 4:4-6**). Any "**baptism**" **does not save, but only the one Jesus has authorized.**

C. People believed in Jesus before He died, but they were not "Christians:" "Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them" (**John 2:23-24**).

After His resurrection, the Gospel Jesus sent to "every creature" says: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (**Mark 16:15-16**). These are disciples God "first called Christians in Antioch" (**Acts 11:26**).

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<http://fellowshiproom.com>

Free Booklet: "Did Christ Die In Vain?"

<https://johntpolkll.com/files/documents/DidChristDieInVain.pdf>

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ *The purpose of the church is to get rid of evil, not to supervise it.*

~*Many dress the way they think and then act the way they dress.*

~*Dusty Bibles lead to dirty lives.*

~*Big bang theory? . . . You've got to be kidding. (God)*

A CHILD OF GOD MAY SIN AND BE LOST

(aka: there is no such thing as "once saved, always saved")

Exhibit #1

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL'S APOSTASY & LESSON FOR CHRISTIANS TODAY

Psalms 106:7-26

v. 7-11

God saved them "through the depths of the Red Sea"

v. 12

They believed His words

v. 13-22

"They soon forgot His works" and sinned

v. 23

"Therefore He said that he would destroy them, had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, to turn away his wrath, lest He should destroy them." Cf **v. 26**

v. 24

"They believed not His word"

I Corinthians 10:1-12

v. 1-4

"all" baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the Sea

Hebrews 11:29

"By faith they passed through the Red Sea"

v. 6-10

lusted after evil things, fornication, tempt Christ, murmuring

v. 5

with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness

v. 11-12

"written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come"

Hebrews 3:7-15

7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, **8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation**, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. **10** Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, **They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.** **11** So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God. **13** But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; **lest any of you be hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin. **14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;** **15** While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

Exhibit #2

John Said A Child of God's Salvation is Conditional

1 John's Conditional "If's"

- 1 John 1:6** "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:
- 1 John 1:7** "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.
- 1 John 1:8** "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- 1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- 1 John 1:10** "If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us."

-----John T. Polk II, Debate Charts
(more debate charts found at: johntpolkII.com)

I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. - Psalm 119:11

