



"From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truths, from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth, O, God of Truth, deliver us."

A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"

~ All articles are written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. unless otherwise stated ~

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George L. Faull, Editor

Dear Brother Faull,



Regarding John's baptism. I understand it was for repentance but **Mark 1:4b** says "...for the remission of sins".

I understand those baptized of John had to be baptized later for the right reason, so those who were baptized of John, were their sins forgiven?

MR. FAULL'S ANSWER:

Yes they were.

Mark 1:4 However, they never received the Holy Spirit for He was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified until his ascension. This is why they needed to be baptized again. See **Acts 19:1-5**

Let's suppose I tell my employees that their families are invited to Ponderosa for dinner and that I will pick up the tab. I give them a wooden token to show the cashier.

One of the men's wives just can't imagine she can eat all that food free. He assures her that I have given him a token for her and she just has to turn in the token to eat freely. She does so, as do all the others who have tokens. Later I come in and the cashier tells me the token amount comes to \$900.00. I pay it after she ate, but she enjoyed the benefit before it was paid.

The people baptized of John believed on Him who was to come and received the forgiveness of sin. They could not pay it. The blood of bulls and goats cannot take away sins.

Water could not pay it, just as the token is not inherently a sufficient value to pay for the whole meal. It was just the means of showing that they had faith in my promise that I would pay it and they were claiming the free gift.

On the cross Jesus said, "It is paid" or "It is finished". Jesus paid the cost of our sins. "It is paid" is the meaning of the expression. So they enjoyed the remission of sins

for they had faith that the Lamb of God would pay the cost by His death.

John foretold the Lamb of God that would take away the sins of the world. Likewise, the others in the Old Testament who had faith in a coming Savior believed by their sacrifices, that a Lamb was coming who would pay the cost of their sin.

Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. All who are ever saved have appropriated forgiveness by faith, just as we do today when we are immersed.

They did it by prospect, we by retrospect, so we are all saved by faith in Christ's shed blood. Only those who believed God and were baptized by John's baptism received the forgiveness of their sins.

Note carefully **Luke 7:29-30**, "29 And all the people that heard *him*, and the publicans, justified God, being baptized with the baptism of John. 30 But the Pharisees and lawyers **rejected the counsel of God against themselves, being not baptized of him.**"

Those who did not bring the token to the Ponderosa did not get to eat free that evening. Those who were not baptized of John did not appropriate to themselves the forgiveness for which the Lamb of God later paid.

Those who were baptized by John, when they learned who the Lamb of God was, had to submit to Christian baptism to appropriate His Spirit.

If they did not believe Jesus was the Lamb of God, then their sins were not going to continue to be forgiven, nor would they have his Spirit, unless they were baptized by His authority or in His name. I trust this helps.