

**A RESPONSE  
TO FALSE  
ACCUSATIONS  
AGAINST  
PREACHERS  
OF THE  
CHURCH OF CHRIST**

By George Ebejer

# A RESPONSE TO FALSE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST PREACHERS OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

By George Ebejer

My name is George Ebejer and I am a Maltese **preacher** of the church of Christ on the small Island of Malta in the Mediterranean Sea.

I was asked by one of the brethren to look at the questions that are asked by Mr. David Martin, who is the Pastor of Solid Rock Baptist Church, and I was asked if I can answer those questions. I told him that those questions are addressed directly to me as one of the preachers of the churches of Christ, and to all the other preachers, and we, as Christians, should have no problem to answer any questions because we have God's Word to answer for us. And that is what I will do.

After reading what was written by Mr. David Martin I was shocked and amazed how far people go, especially when they call themselves Christians (?) in using insulting words to criticize other believers in God! I said to myself, how can a man, who profess to read the Bible, can use such language which I am sure that our Lord will judge him for using it. Our Lord says: *"But I say unto you, That **every idle word** that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For **by thy words** thou shalt be justified, and **by thy words** thou shalt be condemned"* (Matthew 12:36, 37). Did Mr. David Martin used any "idle words"? Judge for yourselves: He used insulting words and phrases for the church of Christ such as "religious sect"; "It is a most deceptive and dangerous **cult**"; "their screwball theology"; "their heretical positions"; "hopping all over the pond"; "If the water pipes broke and the baptistry was bone dry, would my salvation have to wait until the plumber showed up?"; "theology of Campbellism"; "Campbellites", etc. Is this the AGAPE that our beloved Lord wants from us? Surely not! Are these "idle words"? Surely they are! And worse than that, he called us "water dogs" and to continue to go deeper in the mud, he went further and involved our Lord in it by trying to impress his readers that even Jesus used that expression. But how different it was when Jesus said those words and His intention than yours, Mr. David Martin! You really need to go down on your knees and ask forgiveness to all the preachers who are members of the one body of Christ, the church of Christ and to all the readers, for all those idle words that you are applying to them. We are not even to use this language against our enemies because we are commanded to love them! Imagine a person who does not believe, reading what Mr. David Martin wrote. He will say how can I become a Christian when those who call themselves Christians say insulting words like those said by Mr. David Martin against other Christians? Where is the fruit of the Spirit in Mr. David Martin's words?

Listen to the Holy Spirit what He has to say to people like Mr. David Martin:

**Galatians 5:22-26,**

“But the fruit of the Spirit is **love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, **gentleness**, **goodness**, faith, <sup>23</sup>**Meekness**, **temperance**: against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup>And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. <sup>25</sup>If we live in the Spirit, **let us also walk in the Spirit**. <sup>26</sup>**Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.**” After one reads what Mr. David Martin wrote against the preachers of the church of Christ, do you think that he will find **love**, **gentleness**, **goodness**, **meekness**, **temperance**, in the way that Mr. David Martin treats others? Or Is he not “desirous of vain glory, provoking others, envying them”?

**James 1:21,**

“Wherefore **lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness**, and receive **with meekness** the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.”

**James 1:26,**

“If any man among you **seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.**”

Men like Mr. David Martin really need to “bridle their tongue” if they really want to be religious! They are only pleasing Satan by their attitude. They think that by insulting others whom they do not agree with, they will gain approval from their hearers. Maybe they will, but surely not approval from our beloved Lord! Imagine Mr. David Martin ready to give his life to a preacher of the church of Christ!!!!!! Really we need to pray for such men and especially for their listeners not to let the seed of such hatred be sown in their hearts! Where is the *agape* that our Lord preached?

God’s Word tells us, as true Christians, to: “*Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*” (1 Peter 3:15). And as a preacher of the church that our beloved Lord built, that is what I am going to do, “give an answer to Mr. David Martin who asketh me a reason of the hope that is in me **with meekness and fear:**” I want to be careful not to let Satan rule my mind and make me use insulting words. I learn a lot when I read what others write, like, for example, what Mr. David Martin wrote to criticize the church of Christ. They forget that they are supposed to be servants of the Lord and instead of honoring Him by their words they dishonor Him!

I pray to God to guide me in my answers so that they may be of help to those who read them and maybe they will lead them to the truth of God's Word and not men's (John 8:31-32).

In my answers I intend to answer each part by putting my answer under every part and question that was written by Mr. David Martin.

I will put the words My Answer: were I give my answer and Mr. David Martin says: were he asks a question or have written something.

## COMMON SENSE QUESTIONS A "CHURCH OF CHRIST" PREACHER CANNOT CLEARLY ANSWER

by Pastor David Martin - Solid Rock **Baptist Church** - Bartlett, Tennessee

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### Mr. David Martin says:

The religious sect known as the "Church of Christ" has many peculiar and aberrant doctrines that are contrary to the word of God.

- My Answer:

Calling the "Church of Christ" a *sect* is not something new, this happened in Paul's time, too, and we feel proud that we are experiencing the same feelings that the apostle Paul and other Christians of his time felt when they were called a "sect" (see Acts 24:5; 28:22). That is one kind of persecution that true Christians had to face and even in our time we have to face it as it is proved in Mr. David Martin's writings!

### Mr. David Martin says:

It is a most deceptive and dangerous **cult**. Their teaching of baptismal regeneration is an age-old heresy that has damned millions to hell, and is still doing so today.

- My Answer:

In **Ephesians 5:6** we are told not to let any one deceive us because if we do that we will have the wrath of God on us. So, you, who is reading this, have to be very very careful not to let me, or someone else deceive you because if you do that, *you* will have God's wrath upon you. Why I am saying this? Because Mr. David Martin said that our teaching of "baptismal regeneration..." but he did not *define clearly* what he means by that designation! In his questions, Mr. David Martin wanted us to be *specific* but for him there is no need to be specific. And here is where one has to be very careful not to let anyone deceive him! Exactly what is "baptismal regeneration"? The phrase

connotes different things to different people. For Mr. David Martin it means one thing and for others it means something else. For some, like Mr. David Martin, the expression is merely a bit of inflammatory rhetoric designed to intimidate those who affirm that baptism is a part of the regeneration process. To others, like the Catholic Church, it is the notion that baptism is a “sacrament” which has a sort of mysterious, innate power to remove the contamination of sin – independent of personal faith and a volitional submission to God’s plan of redemption. *The doctrine of baptism’s essentiality has the support of the Bible*; the “sacramental” ideology does not. We do not accept any of these things. We believe and teach that: (1) there is nothing in the teaching of the Scriptures which would even remotely suggest that there is some magical essence inherent in the water of baptism that can effect forgiveness of sin. Rather, baptism, i.e., immersion in water, is a rite that is accompanied by both faith (Mark 16:16) and repentance (Acts 2:38). Void of those prerequisites, it has no validity whatever. (2) Second, baptism is an **act of obedience** wherein one expresses his confidence in the power of Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection to produce pardon. Paul makes it quite clear that when one is buried with Christ through baptism, it is into the Lord’s death, i.e., the benefits of his death, that the sinner comes. And, just as the Son of God was raised from the dead to the glory of Father, even so, when one is raised from the burial of baptism, he passes into a state characterized as “*newness of life*” (Romans 6:4). The power to save is *in Jesus’ death and resurrection*. Penitent believers access that power when they humbly submit to the Lord’s requirement to replicate the Savior’s burial and resurrection in the action of baptism (cf. Col. 2:12-13). Even when one has done precisely as the Lord commands, *he has merited nothing; he has earned nothing*. The fact that we are saved by God’s grace does not negate human responsibility in accepting Heaven’s gift, and one’s refusal to do what is clearly commanded by the Son of God, or to assign it a subordinate status, is not justified. We will see more about this later on.

A simple question that is very hard for men like Mr. David Martin to answer without mixing or adding their opinions with the Scriptural answer is this: “**WHO COMMANDED WATER BAPTISM?**” Was it a **PREACHER** of the church of Christ, or **CHRIST HIMSELF**? You will get no straight answer like: “IT WAS CHRIST WHO COMMANDED WATER BAPTISM.” We all know why? That is our only answer to those who sincerely want to know the truth! Now do you want to know if water baptism is a prerequisite to salvation or not?

Then read Luke 6:46 and John 14:15, 21, 23, 24 and you will know exactly and very clearly if Mr. David Martin is right and God's Word is wrong or vice versa!

**Mr. David Martin says:**

The idea that they are the one, true and restored church of Jesus Christ puts them in the same league with the Mormon and Roman Catholic churches.

- **My Answer:** Why “on the same league with the Mormon and Roman Catholic churches” and not the “church of England,” “Jehovah Witnesses,” “Pentecostals,” etc.? Who gave Mr. David Martin the authority to choose the Mormon and Roman Catholic churches from among all the others? He must remember that “all authority is Christ’s” (Matthew 28:18) and not Mr. David Martin’s! Yes, the one and true church is the church that Christ said that He will built and this is accepted by Mr. David Martin himself in question 1 where he quoted Matthew 16:18! When I will come to that question I will explain more about this. The only true church is the one that Christ built and paid with His own blood for it (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28). Was this the Baptist Church? If it was, then were we find it mentioned in the Bible? Remember, Mr. David Martin, that the Bible tells us: “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him*” (Colossians 3:17). Is the name “Baptist Church” in the name of the Lord Jesus? If yes, please quote from your Bible the Book, Chapter and verse where one can find it!

**Mr. David Martin says:**

If you are a member of this "church" or have been influenced by its teachings, we challenge you to ask your preacher the questions that follow, then get your King James Bible out, open it up, and ask the Holy Spirit to **show you the TRUTH** (John 16:13). If you have never been saved in the Bible sense, for heaven's sake, do not mistake being "washed in the baptistry of the church" for being **washed in the blood of Christ**.

• **My Answer:**

Yes, I am a member of the church of Christ (but not a member of the “Church of Christ” in the sense that Mr. David Martin puts it, in a denominational sense, the same as he puts the “Baptist Church.” Christ did not build a denomination but His *ekklesia*! And this is what men, like Mr. David Martin, do not want to see! We are influence only by God’s Word and not by some rulers of some denominations. You see how mistaken is Mr. David Martin? He says to those who read

what he wrote: “We *challenge* you to ask your preacher the questions that follow...” “We **challenge** you,” they (of the Baptist Church). How different from the simplicity and humility of God’s Word. Listen to God talking to sinners: “Come now, **and let us reason together**, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” The LORD did not **challenge** those who were sinners, but wanted to **reason with them**, and that is what we, as true Christians, want to do with all those who do not agree with us! I do not challenge anyone but in-vite all those to really read God’s Word without letting anyone deceive them, and that includes myself too. I invite them to do as the Bereans did, “*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scrip-tures daily, whether those things were so*” (Acts 17:11). That is everyone’s responsibility and that is what all should do. After reading what I am going to write, do not accept what I have written blindly, but search the Scriptures to see whether those things that I have written are so. Surely the LORD, in His reasoning, did not use any of the language that Mr. David Martin used to insult us as members of the church of Christ!

Then Mr. David Martin continues to say: “If you have never been saved in the Bible sense, for heaven's sake, do not mistake being “washed in the baptistry of the church” for being **washed in the blood of Christ.**” When I read such things, written by one who is supposed to teach others God’s Word, I say to myslef, “does not these men read the whole Bible or only read and teach what they please?” I ask Mr. David Martin if the eunuch (and others in the Book of Acts) was “washed in the blood of Christ” or in that “*certain water*” that he was immersed in by Philip (Acts 2:36-39)? Surely that he was “**washed by the blood of Christ**” but **after** he **obeyed** the command of Christ. I do not think that Mr. David Martin ever read or taught what Hebrews 5:9 says. If not, this is what it says, “*And being made perfect, he bacame the author of eternal salvation unto all **them that obey him,***” Have you ever read this verse carefully, Mr. David Martin? What does it really says, “unto all them that **believe** in Him” No, it does not say that! “All that **OBEY HIM!**” And who **COMMANDED WATER BAPTISM**, George Ebejer, as a preacher of the church of Christ? **NO!** Do you agree with me, Mr. David Martin, that it was **JESUS CHRIST** who commanded water baptism? Just give a simply answer of **YES** or **NO!** Can one **be saved** **BEFORE** he obeys the commandments of the *author of eternal salvation*? If you answer yes, then we do not need

Christ as our Saviour! If you answer that one is saved BEFORE he is baptized in water, then you are saying that one can be saved WITHOUT OBEYING THE AUTHOR OF ETERNAL SALVATION, CHRIST! One thing is very clear: Those who speak in opposition to New Testament baptism, contradicting the sacred writings, will have a heavy judgment to bear.

**Mr. David Martin says, (in Christian love; fruit of the Spirit or of Satan?):**

If you ask one of these "preachers" any of the questions in this tract, you won't get a straight answer due to their "screwball" theology. You'll have them in "hot water," "swimming in circles," trying to explain their heretical positions. They'll be "hopping all over the pond" because they can't stay too long in one spot without sinking in the mire of their false doctrines.

• **My Answer:**

*First fruit of Satan:* "due to their "screwball" theology." You decide after you read my answers to Mr. David Martin's question if it is a "screwball" theology" or God's Word. *Second fruit of Satan:* "Hot water", "swimming in circles." What kind of arguments are these? Is this the way that our Lord Jesus Christ told us to teach others and to preach to them to convert them to Him? Do you think, Mr. David Martin, that Jesus is enjoying reading what you wrote? I do not care if I swim in hot water as long as I am obeying my Lord. *Third fruit of Satan:* "hopping all over the pond." I think that Mr. David Martin likes to make fun about the teaching of God's Word! Remember, Mr. David Martin, "That **every idle word** that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For **by thy words** thou shalt be justified, and **by thy words** thou shalt be condemned" (Matthew 12:36) and you have said many "idle words," and I think that you are in serious trouble unless you *repent* and ask forgiveness from the preachers of the church of Christ and from your listeners and readers that you are trying to make fun with!

I do not think that any serious reader after reading what Mr. David Martin wrote to try to ridicule the preacher of the church of Christ will say in his heart that Mr. David Martin is writing in Christian love! There is not even one verse that shows sincere love towards those whom *he thinks* that they are teaching false doctrines!

Be careful, Mr David Martin, that your own words will not be applied to yourself as you have said in the next paragraph.

**Mr. David Martin says:**



Don't **YOU** wind up being baptized in the "Lake of Fire" by accepting a "waterworks" based plan of salvation and rejecting salvation by grace through faith in the finished work of Christ. (Matt. 3:11; Rev. 20:15; Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 11:6).

- **My Answer:**

Mr. David Martin wants **us** to be specific, but this does not apply to himself. "Waterworks" based plan of salvation..." according to Mr. David Martin. But what is the plan of salvation *according to Jesus, our Lord*? Is believing a work or not?

**John 6:28-29** – *“Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? <sup>29</sup>Jesus answered and said unto them, This is **the work of God**, that ye **believe** on him whom he hath sent.”* Yes, “to believe” is a **work of God** the same as baptism (Colossians 2:12).

- Perhaps the chart below will help to put things in focus with reference to the connection between baptism and salvation, and the order of their occurrence, in the scriptural plan, not in Mr. David Martin’s plan!

<b>The Biblical Order</b>	
Baptism	Salvation (Mk. 16:16)
Born of Water	Enter Kingdom (Jn. 3:5)
Baptism	Remission of Sins (Acts 2:38)
Baptism	Washing (Acts 22:16)
Baptism	Death of Christ (Rom. 6:3)
Washed	Justified (1 Cor. 6:11)
Baptism	Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)
Baptism	Clothed With Christ (Gal. 3:27)
Washing of Water	Cleansed (Eph. 5:26)
Baptism	Working of God (Col. 2:12)
Washing of Regeneration	Saved (Tit. 3:5)
Baptism	Saved (1 Pet. 3:21)

Keep this in mind, that even when one has done precisely as the Lord commands, *he has merited nothing; he has earned nothing*. The fact

that we are saved by God's grace does not negate human responsibility in accepting Heaven's gift, and one's refusal to do what is clearly **commanded** by the Son of God, or to assign it a subordinate status, is not justified, is sin (1 John 3:4).

Why Mr. David Martin quoted these Scriptures? (Matt. 3:11; Rev. 20: 15; Eph. 2:8,9; Rom. 5:9; Rom. 11:6). To show that water baptism is not essential? Because they do not mention it? Does they mention "repentance"? (Acts 2:38). Does they mention "confession of Christ as Lord"? (Rom. 10:13). Does they mention "love"? (2 Thess. 2:10). Does they mention "hope"? (Rom. 8:24). Does they mention "longsuffering" (2 Pet. 15). Does they mention "the gospel"? (Rom. 1:16). Does they mention "the Word"? (James 1:21). Does they mention the Scriptures? (1 Tim. 3:15). Does they mention "calling the name of the Lord" (Acts 2:21; 22:16). And I can continue without end. So without all of these, is a person saved? According to the teaching of Mr. David Martin, YES! But now, if you please, read Ephesians 5:6.

Yes, **Romans 5:9** that was quoted by Mr. David Martin says that "we are *justified by his blood...*" But James 2:21 says: "*Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?*" Which one is right? I am sure that both are right. So, are we justified by "works" or not? God's Word, not Mr. David Martin's, tells us: "You see then how that *by works a man is justified, and not by faith only...*?" This is what the Holy Spirit says! And this is what I, as a preacher of the church of Christ preach and teach!

Now we come to another offensive fruit of Satan that Mr. David Martin uses:

### **David Martin says:**

#### **Here are Questions for Campbellites**

- **My Answer:**

First he calls us a "sect," then a "cult," now "Campbellites." Truly, one cannot see Jesus in Mr. David Martin! I am going to answer these questions, not as a "Campbellite," because I am not a "Campbellite," and has never been one, and I am neither a member of some man-made denomination, but as a Christian of the New Testament church, that church that Jesus Christ bought with His own blood, and said that He was going to build, His church (Matthew 16:18), and because it is His, it is the church of Christ!

### **Mr. David Martin asks:**

1. According to the history of the "Church of Christ," God used certain men to "restore" the New Testament Church in the early 1800's. **Where was the true New Testament church before then?** Jesus said that the gates of hell would not prevail against His church (Matthew 16:18). **What happened to the church and where was the truth it was responsible for preaching before God restored it?**

- **My Answer:**

The mistake that Mr. David Martin makes all the time is that he cannot leave out men and go to the Bible alone. I will tell the history of the church of Christ to those sincere men and women who really want to know the truth by simply opening the Bible and read to them from Matthew to Revelation. If they want to go deeper I will show them from Genesis to Revelation. That is the true history of the church of Christ. In Luke 8:11 we read that, "*Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*" So as long as the seed was sown, there was the church of Christ. In Acts 13:47 we read, "*For so hath the **Lord commanded us**, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation **unto the ends of the earth.***" Yes, the church was all the time "*unto the ends of the earth.*" In Romans 10:18 – "*But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, **and their words unto the ends of the world.***" Do you believe this or not, Mr. David Martin? This is what the Holy Spirit says in His Word and this is what I teach as a preacher of the church of Christ in Malta. In Malta there was no church of Christ for many many years but that does not mean that the church of Christ did not existed? Revelation 12:6, 14 says – "*And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days...<sup>14</sup>And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that *she might fly into the wild-erness*, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent."* I do not like to put my opinion, or interpretation here but the verses can be applied both in a physical and spiritual sense. To hide for a while from being persecuted does not mean that the church stopped from continuing to exist! An-other example that one can find is in 2 Kings 22:8-20. The book of the Law was lost. Because it was lost, that does not mean that it did not exist. On the very day that the royal order came to commence the ren-novation, Hilkiah sent word back to the king of a striking discovery. During the preliminary surveys which preceded the building operation, an ancient law book had been discovered. Hilkiah handed the ancient document over to Shaphan who read enough from

it to determine that the book was exceedingly valuable and should be brought to the attention of the king (v. 8). When the king, who was sincere and wanted to know the truth, and not to try to criticize, as Mr. David Martin is trying to do about the restoration of the church, heard the tone and contents of the book, he was quite upset and demonstrated his state of mind by tearing his garments (v. 11). *He recognized the language of this book to be that of the Law of God. Even though that book had for many years been lost, yet much of its contents had been preserved and handed down orally by the pious of the nation.* The king did not say, as Mr. David Martin said about the church, that is not the true Law of God because it was hidden for a long time and was found by Hilkiah. No, instead, he appointed a committee to make further investigations regarding it. You see, Mr. David Martin, when someone is sincere and he really wants to know the truth what he does. If it was Mr. David Martin in the place of the king, he would have said, "According to the history of the Law of God, God used certain men to "restore" the "Book of Law" during the time of Hilkiah and Shaphan the scribe in the year 640-609 B.C. **Where was the true Book of the Law of God before then?** God said that His law was everlasting (read from Genesis on about the everlasting covenant (9:16; 17:7, 13; Lev. 16:34; 2 Sam. 23:5; 1 Chron. 16:17; etc.). **What happened to the Law of God and where was the truth it was responsible for preaching before the king restored it?"** So according to Mr. David Martin the Book of the Law of God that Hilkiah found was not the **true Law of God** and should be put aside! Please, Mr. David Martin, try to see the truth and do not continue to deceive others and become a member of the true church of Christ! Was the Book still in existence even though it was hidden for a very long time? Yes! Was the church of Christ still in existence, even though she was hidden for some time? Yes!

**David Martin asks:**

2. If a "Church of Christ" elder refuses to baptize me, will I be lost until I can find one who will? **Do I need Jesus AND a Campbellite "preacher" in order to be saved?** If I do, then Jesus Christ is not the only Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5) and the Holy Spirit is not the only Administrator (1 Cor. 12:13) of salvation - the "Church of Christ" preacher is necessary to salvation for **he is performing a saving act on me when he baptizes me!** Is this not blasphemy against Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost?

• **My Answer:**

First of all, if a person asks to be baptized, he or she cannot be refused to be baptized as long as he or she had repented and accepted Jesus as their Lord. At least, Mr. David Martin is showing that he does *not know* certain things that the Bible teaches very clearly and he is asking. He asked: “**Do I need Jesus AND a Campbellite "preacher" in order to be saved?** Again, fruit of the Spirit or fruit of Satan? What kind of question is this? Then he continues: “If I do, then Jesus Christ is not the only Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5) and the Holy Spirit is not the only Administrator (1 Cor. 12:13) of salvation - the "Church of Christ" preacher is necessary to salvation for **he is performing a saving act on me when he baptizes me!**” What kind of language is this from a supposed intelligent person? Do you read your Bible or not, Mr. David Martin?

If Mr. David Martin is ready to answer the simple question: “**Who commands water baptism**” then he will have no problem in understanding what God really wants him to teach about it. It is a very simple question that men like Mr. David Martin, who teach the false teaching that baptism is not a prerequisite to salvation, are afraid to answer it directly. People like him are not ready to answer. They are not ready to humble themselves and accept that they are wrong.

The e-mail below was sent by me to Mr. David Martin on the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2005. I have received no answer whatsoever.

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**From:** George Ebejer [mailto:george@dualbeam.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 17, 2005 7:24 AM  
**To:** 'pastor@solidrockbaptist.net'  
**Subject:** LOVE AGAPE

Sir,

First of all I would like to express myself that as a Christian, I do not want a person to teach me hatred. I was a Catholic and I became a Christian and as a Catholic the priests always referred to other denominations as a sect in a sense to show us that they are of Satan. They use the word sect in that sense. And when I read your article in it all I felt in my heart was hatred for the members of the church of Christ. You made a lot of challenges and the answer is only in one question, if you can answer it, and honestly and without any additional words of your opinion. The question is this:

**"WHO COMMANDS WATER BAPTISM?"**

**Please answer me by telling me only WHO COMMANDS IT?  
For now I thank you and may you show more love to others  
than you are showing in your article.**

**In Him,  
George Ebejer**

But, now, let us leave God's Word to answer him:

**Matthew 28:18-19** – “*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. <sup>19</sup>Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”*

Did Jesus **comands** “water baptism” here or not? YES NO

**Mark 16:16** – “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*

Did Jesus **comands** “water baptism” here or not? YES NO

**Acts 2:36-38** – “*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. <sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? <sup>38</sup>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.”*

Did Peter, and the other apostles commanded “water baptism” here, in **obedience** to Christ's command or not? YES NO

Was Peter, **another** mediator here? YES NO

**Acts 8:36-39** – “*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? <sup>37</sup>And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.”*

Was it “water baptism” that was performed by Philip or not?

Was Philip **another** mediator here or not? YES NO

Was it “water baptism” that was performed here *in obedience to Christ's command* or not? YES NO

**Acts 10:47** – “*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”*

Was it “water baptism” that was performed by Peter or not? YES NO

Was Peter **another** mediator here or not? YES NO

**Luke 6:46** – “*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, **and do not the things which I say?**”*

When one is doing the baptizing and one is being baptized, are not both of them **obeying** Christ’s **command**? YES NO

In all of these accounts of conversion, were Peter and the other apostles and Philip and Paul and others that we read in the Book of Acts who baptized in water, other “mediators” and other “administrators” of salvation, as Mr. David Martin tries to deceive his readers and his hearers? Certainly not! They were ***humble*** servants of the Lord ***obeying His command*** to go and preach the gospel and baptize those who believe and **obey** the truth.

According to Mr. David Martin, then, those who preach to others are acting as mediators, too, because by making others believe, they, too, are performing a saving act on the one who believes! Are you not, Mr. David Martin, another mediator? Is this blasphemy against Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost, Mr. David Martin?

But see how Mr. David Martin contradicts himself and makes the teaching of our Lord void. When one reads under the title of WHAT WE (the Baptist Church) BELIEVE, we will read this under the subtitle of BAPTISM, and I quote:

#### **BAPTISM**

“We believe that water baptism is by immersion and only for believers. It has no saving merits whatsoever and is simply an act of obedience and a matter of testimony for the Christian. It is to be done in the “name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (Matthew 28:19)”

For Mr. David Martin baptism is “***simply*** an act of obedience.” For him Christ’s command is “***simply***” something and nothing more! You see how far some men go! Does Mr. David Martin know what the Bible says about ***obedience*** and disobedience? From what he says it shows that he does not know! And this makes me more convinced that men like Mr. David Martin does not read the whole Bible but only verses that they think can help them to prove their false teachings by *taking those verses out of the New Testament context about salvation!* If baptism is *an act of obedience*, does not this make it a prerequisite to salvation? How can a person be saved while he or she is still in disobedience? You know what will those who are in disobedience have on them? The wrath of God (see Eph. 5:6). Are you going to take that great risk and believe Mr. David Martin and not God’s Word? Once more, to whom our Lord became the Author of eternal salvation? The Holy spirit tells us: “*Unto all them that **OBEY HIM**”*

(Heb. 5:9). And if baptism is an “act of OBEDIENCE,” even according to Mr. David Martin, then if a person has not yet *obeyed* that “*act of obedience*,” he or she is still lost in his or her sins! Mr. David Martin at least agrees that baptism is “to be done in the *name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.*” (Matthew 28:19). How can a person be saved *OUTSIDE OF THAT NAME*, that is, “of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.” Does not Mr. David Martin know that “*ALL spiritual blessing are in Christ*” (Ephesians 1:3). Again, how can a person be saved while still outside of Christ? And Mr. David Martin himself admits that baptism is in that NAME (See also Acts 2:38). And how one gets into or put on Christ? Read Galatians 3:26-27 and you have the answer. You see how simple is God’s Word and how men try to twist it? So, now that you know all this, what is blasphemy against Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, that one truly OBEYS Christ’s com-mands, whether they are *simple* commands or not, or that one, because a command is “simply a command” as Mr. David Martin refers to the command of water baptism, he puts it aside!

### **David Martin asks:**

3. If the water pipes broke and the baptistry was bone dry, would my salvation have to wait until the plumber showed up? **If I were to die before then, would I go to hell?** If obedience to water baptism is the means of forgiveness of sins, then I would.

- **My Answer:**

For me, to try to make fun or ridicule of God’s Word is great blasphemy. When our beloved Lord **COMMANDED** BAPTISM did He not thought about the water pipes that they can brake and the baptistry will become bone dry? Or that the river Jordan, were He Himself was baptized, could run dry? Or that “certain water” were the eunuch was baptized by Philip could run dry, too? Or Ananias did not thought when he told Sawl to “Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins ...” that the water could run dry and Sawl will laugh at him? When I read this to some of the members they smiled, but I told them that they should cry and not smile. This is something very serious trying to ridicule in this manner a **COMMAND** given by our beloved Lord! Again, Mr. David Martin, Jesus says to people like you: “*But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned*” (Matthew 12:



36, 37) And surely there are **many** idles words in what Mr. David Martin said here!

David Martin says: “**If I were to die before then, would I go to hell?** If obedience to water baptism is the means of forgiveness of sins, and it is, then you would. Jesus **commands** us to preach: “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be dammed.*” (Mark 16:16). And as a preacher of the church of Christ, that is what I preach to others without making any changes in what our Lord commanded us to preach.

Now, according to Jesus, who shall be saved? The answer is simple: “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved*” Do you agree or not, Mr. David Martin? Now, according to Jesus, who shall be dammed? The answer is simple: “*he that believeth not shall be dammed.*” Do you agree or not, Mr. David Martin? But now we have a problem with the teaching of Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church here. They teach that baptism is not a prerequisite to salvation. They teach that one is saved by faith only. They teach that a person is saved when he believes and after he is saved, he can be baptized. But see how they make Jesus’ words void. Mr. David Martin tried to make his readers laugh by calling us “Water Dog Fights.” He quoted some verses from the Bible out of their context to try to make an impression on his readers that he is quoting the Scriptures. He quoted Jesus’ words in Matthew 7:15 and called us “wolves by saying that they are members of the dog family. What a pity, Mr. David Martin, you, who call yourself a “pastor” use this language to deceive your readers! I assure you, Mr. David Martin, that you have many and many idle words that you have to give account to the Lord for them! It is better to read, Mr. David Martin, Acts 8:22! He then said this about me, as a preacher of the church of Christ (and the other preachers): “Since we believe that the so-called “Church of Christ” preaches a perverted gospel, we consider them one of the many breeds of “dogs” (*false prophets, false teachers, gospel perverts*) in the religious world today.” If one wants to see how far Mr. David Martin can go to show what kind of love he has for others like me, who are trying to do our best to serve the Lord the best way we can, I suggest to him to continue to read from were I left and see how many idle words he throws on us.

Now, he called me, with the orther fellow preachers of the church of Christ, “gospel perverts.” Let us see, now, if you please, who is perverting the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Do you remember, at the beginning, that Mr. David Martin said that we, as the church of Christ, are on the same league with the Roman

Catholic Church? So let us see who is on the same league with the Roman Catholic church from this verse only, that is, Mark 16:16a.

Jesus commands us to preach: “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.*” But Mr. David Martin teaches that “he that believeth **shall be saved**, and is baptized.” On the other hand, the Roman Catholic Church teaches that “he that is baptized shall be saved and then believes” because she baptizes infants who cannot believe. But both of them, what Mr. David Martin (the Baptist Church) and the Roman Catholic Church changed the sequence of Jesus’ words, Jesus’ **command!**

Now, without any prejudice, mark which answer you agree with.

Question: Who “will be saved” *according to Jesus?*

Answer:

“He that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved.”

or,

“He that believeth shall be saved and then be baptized.”

or,

“He that is baptized, shall be saved, and then believes.”

Surely it is not hard to find the right answer as long as one is sincere!

I, George Ebejer, a preacher of the church of Christ in Malta, preach and teach, that “**HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED, SHALL BE SAVED.**” Am I perverting the gospel of Christ?

**YES NO**

Mr. David Martin, a preacher of the Baptist Church preach and teach that “**HE THAT BELIEVETH SHALL BE SAVED AND IS BAPTIZED WHEN HE PLEASES.**” Is this a perversion of the gospel of Christ or not? **YES NO**

The Catholic Church preaches and teaches that “**HE THAT IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED AND THEN BELIEVETH.**” Is this a perversion of the gospel of Christ or not? **YES NO**

Now, you who are reading, answer according to your conscience and feel free to answer what you believe is the right answer for you, but be sure that your answer is in agreement with Jesus’ command.

Now if you are still in difficulty to find the right answer, continue to read:

**Jesus** commands: (1) He that (2) believeth and is (3) baptized, (4) shall be saved.”

**The Baptist Church** commands: (1) He that (2) believeth (4) shall be saved, and is (3) baptized.”

**The Roman Catholic Church** commands: (1) He that is (3) baptized (4) shall be saved, and then (2) believeth.”

Now, if this is not enough for one to see who is perverting the gospel of Christ, and how wrong, men like Mr. David Martin are in their teaching, let me give a simple example about this.

My phone number is 21898270. Now, if you dial that number, who do you think that will answer the phone? Me, George Ebejer. Do you agree with me?

Now, if you try to dial my number but instead of the numbers as they are, you change one number, e.g., 21898720 instead of 21898270. Who will answer you on the end of the line? George? No! You will hear someone else telling you “wrong number.” If you continue to dial that number all your life, you will **never** hear my voice on the other end.

Now, **Jesus’** spiritual phone number to be saved is this: **1234**. If you dial that number, **1234**, who will answer you? Jesus. Do you agree?

**The Baptist Church’s** phone number to be saved is this: **1243**. If you dial that number, **1243**, who will answer you? Surely not Jesus but someone of the Baptist Church! Do you agree?

**The Roman Catholic Church’s** number is: **1342**. If you dial that number, **1342**, who will answer you? Surely not Jesus but someone of the Roman Catholic Church! Do you agree?

So if you dial **1234** you will hear Jesus’ voice but if you dial the other two numbers it will be Satan’s voice because there is no salvation in them! Whether one agrees or not nothing is going to be changed. Now, if you are a member of the Baptist Church, think seriously in what peril you are in to lose you eternal life. Obey Jesus by dialing **1234** and continue in His teachings only and put away all the false teaching of men. Mr. David Martin said that “If obedience to water baptism is the means of forgiveness of sins, then I would.” And he better do that because it is (Acts 2:38; 22:16). I know that he will try to interpret Acts 2:36, “for (*eis*) the remission of sins.” “For” is not “because of.” We will see about his later one.

**David Martin asks:**

4. If my past sins are forgiven when I am baptized in water, and it is possible for me to "lose my salvation" and go to hell after being baptized, then wouldn't my best chance of going to heaven be to **drown in the baptistry?!!** - before I had a chance to sin so as to be lost again? If I wanted to be absolutely sure of heaven, isn't that my best opportunity?

- **My Answer:** Again, this shows very very clearly that Mr. David Martin does not read the whole New Testament, at least! It is as if one is saying that if a baby born without sin, and when he reaches the age of accountability he can sin, and "lose his salvation" and go to hell, then wouldn't his or her best chance of going to heaven is to die while still a baby? Yes, for men like Mr. David Martin, that would be the best opportunity because if they start to teach false teaching of eternal security after they are baptized, then, yes, that would be the best opportunity. But let me show Mr. David Martin what the Holy Spirit says in His Word about one "losing his salvation" and how false is the teaching of "eternal security." And please, Mr. David Martin, do not contaminate God's Word with your opinions!

1. **1 Corinthians 9:26-27** – *"I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: <sup>27</sup>But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: **lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**"*

"**lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.**"

a. Did Paul believe in eternal security according to his own inspired words? YES NO

2. **Matthew 5:13** – *"Ye are the salt of the earth: **but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.**"*

a. "**But if.**" What "but if"? "**The salt have lost his savour.**" Do you believe that Jesus was mistaken here. How can the salt (the Christian) lose his savour, Jesus? We are told that "once saved, always saved"! You see, who is right, Jesus, Paul, or Mr. David Martin? (see also Luke 14:34). According to Mr. David Martin "salt can never lose its savour! But I, as a preacher of the church of Christ believe Jesus!

3. **Matthew 5:28-29** – *"But I say unto you, That **whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.** <sup>29</sup>And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that*

*one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”*

- a. Do you believe, that Jesus taught openly that sin can drag any *lustful* person to *hell*, Mr. David Martin?
  - b. That “**whosoever.**” Not some, not unbelievers, not the unsaved, but “WHOSOEVER,” all, whether an unbeliever or one saved, a Christian!
  - c. Whether Mr. David Martin believes this or not, nothing is going to be changed!
4. **Matthew 6:14-15** – *“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup>But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”*
- a. Does this sound like that **if we do not forgive** men their trespasses, we will be saved just the same?
5. **Matthew 10:22-23** – *“And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: **but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.** <sup>23</sup>But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come.”*
6. **Matthew 24:13** – *“**But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.**”*
- a. And if one **does not endure unto the end**, what will happen to him, Mr. David Martin?
7. **Revelation 2:10** – *“Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.**”*
- a. “**But he that endureth to the end shall be saved.**” “**But**”, what does that mean? It will be without sense if there was no possibility of falling from grace.
  - b. Why the admonition, “**he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved**”? It will be without sense if “once saved always saved” because there will be no need to endure unto the end!
  - c. Why “**be thou faithful unto death**” if I am sure that I am always saved? The Holy Spirit, who inspired John, does not know about the teaching of “eternal security” that is being taught today? And if I am always saved, that will mean that

there is nothing that can hinder my fidelity! You see, dear reader, how wrong men like Mr. David Martin are!

- d. “**And I will give thee a crown of life.**” What? You will give me a crown of life? Did you not know, Jesus, that from the time that I believed and I was saved I had already received that crown and can **never lost it!** That is what Mr. David Martin says. Now whom I am going to believe, Mr. David Martin or Jesus, the Holy Spirit, God Himself? Unfortunately, some people prefer to believe men like Mr. David Martin than believing Jesus!

8. **Matthew 24:24** – “*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, **they shall deceive the very elect.***”

- a. Why this warning by Jesus if “once saved always saved”? How can the *elect* be deceived? According to the teaching of Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church they cannot! But I prefer believing and preaching what Jesus says!

9. **Matthew 25:26-30** – “**His lord** answered and said unto him, *Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: <sup>27</sup>Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. <sup>28</sup>Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. <sup>30</sup>**And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.***”

- a. Was the unprofitable servant a servant, as the other servants were, of the Lord? Yes! But, if he had eternal security, according to the false teaching of Mr. David Martin, then why he was cast **into outer darkness**? Do we need someone like Mr. David Martin to interpret this for us? Now, be very careful, dear reader, not to let men like Mr. David Martin deceive you by telling you that those like the unprofitable servant *were never saved from the beginning*. If someone tells you this, just ask them to read from their Bible where does it say so. I assure you that they cannot find the book, chapter and verse.

10. **Luke 8:13** – “*They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation **fall away.***”
- They **believed** and they are supposed to be saved at the time they believed, according to the teaching of Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church!
  - Jesus said clearly that they “believe.” Now I hope that Mr. David Martin will not try to put other words in Jesus’ mouth and say that they were not true believers. Our Lord said clearly that they **believed** and that is what we accept.
  - “**And in time of temptation fall away.**” How can they “fall away” if they were not saved at the first time, Mr. David Martin?
  - To have a “falling away” you must have a saved person first!
  - But, according to the teaching of Mr. David Martin, Jesus is wrong and he is right!
11. **Luke 12:45-46** – “*But and if that servant say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; and shall begin to beat the menservants and maidens, and to eat and drink, and to be drunken; <sup>46</sup>The lord of that servant will come in a day when he looketh not for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, **and will cut him in sunder, and will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.***”
- “**And will cut him in sunder.**” Will Mr. David Martin contend that this means “once saved always saved”?
  - “**And will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.**” This shows clearly that that servant was a “believer” but has fallen from grace, that is why the Lord will appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.”
12. **John 6:66** – “*From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.*”
- Were those who “**went back**, and walked no more with him” saved disciples before they left Jesus or not?
  - If they were *disciples*, and John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, says that they were *disciples*, then they were *saved disciples*.
  - But they after “**went back**, and walked no more with him” and they lost their salvation
  - Again, now, you who are reading this, be careful not to let men like Mr. David Martin tell you, as they tried to tell me, that those disciples were not saved from the beginning. Who gave them the authority to says so?



- e. If they were not saved from the beginning, then were do we read that in the Bible? (Read Ephesians 5:6).
13. **John 15:2, 5-7, 10** – “Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit...<sup>5</sup>I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. <sup>7</sup>If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”
- Can words be more clearer than these?
  - “Every branch in me...” “IN ME” not outside but “IN ME”
  - “That beareth not fruit he taketh away.”
  - But according to Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church Jesus is wrong because He cannot “taketh away” anyone who is “IN HIM” and that branch was IN HIM but He said that He taketh it away?
  - Whom shall we believe, Jesus or Mr. David Martin? (Acts 5: 29).
14. **Acts 24:15-16** – “And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. <sup>16</sup>And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men.”
- “And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void to offence toward God, and toward men.”
  - Is not Paul here showing that there is a possibility of not having a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men”?
15. **Romans 11:22** – “Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.”
- “On them which fell.” Mr. David Martin, can you tell us from were they fell?
  - “If thou continue in his goodness.” Why “if thou continue ...” if they already had “eternal security,” “once they were saved they are always saved,” according to Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church (and some others)!
  - “Otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.” Is here Paul talking about unbelievers or believers?



- d. If they are not believers they are already cut off, so it is clear that a believer can fall from grace and lose his salvation.
  - e. How different is the teaching of God's Word from that of the Baptist Church and Mr. David Martin's and some others!
16. **Romans 14:12** – *“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”*
- a. The apostle Paul is saying that every one of **US**, not of YOU, he includes himself, shall give account of himself to God.
  - b. But for the **US** we do not have to worry at all, because we are “once saved, always saved” and Paul is wrong because they do not need to give any account! They have eternal security from the time they believed, according to Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church's teaching!
  - c. Do you believe that?
17. **1 Corinthians 1:10-15** – *“Now I beseech you, **brethren**, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among **you**; but that **ye** be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. <sup>11</sup>For it hath been declared unto me **of you, my brethren**, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are **contentions among you**. <sup>12</sup>Now this I say, that **every one of you saith**, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. <sup>13</sup>Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? <sup>14</sup>I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius; <sup>15</sup>Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.”*
- a. Were those saved “brethren” at the beginning? Yes!
  - b. But if they continue with their “contentions” will they still be saved? No!
  - c. But according to Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church, yes, they will still be saved, no matter how much contention there will be among them, no matter how much division they will cause, yes, they will still be saved!
  - d. Do you still believe that, Mr. David Martin?
18. **1 Corinthians 3:1-6** – *“And I, **brethren**, could not speak unto you as unto **spiritual**, but as unto **carnal**, even as unto babes in Christ. <sup>2</sup>I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. <sup>3</sup>For ye are yet **carnal**: for whereas **there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions**, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? <sup>4</sup>For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; **are ye not carnal?** <sup>5</sup>Who then is*

*Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? <sup>6</sup>I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”*

- a. Were they Christians, believers, saved, brethren, the ones whom Paul was admonishing? Yes!
- b. But if they continued in their **carnal life**, that is, as Paul told them, “whereas **there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?**” will they still be saved at that situation? No!
- c. Does not this mean that though they were once saved, at that moment, in their *carnal living and walking as men*, **they have lost their salvation, unless they repent?** Yes!
- d. Do you agree Mr. David Martin, or not?

19. **1 Corinthians 9:26-27** – “**I** therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight **I**, not as one that beateth the air: <sup>27</sup>But **I** keep under **my** body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when **I** have preached to others, **I myself should be a castaway.**”

- a. Do you believe, Mr. David Martin, that the apostle Paul was wrong in saying that “lest that by any means, when **I** have preached to others, **I myself should be a castaway**”?
- b. Do you know the meaning of the word “castaway”? “One wrecked on a desolate ashore; an outcast.”
- c. But in the Greek we have the word for “disapproved” which means, “condemned.”
- d. That is what the apostle Paul was saying, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that he, Paul, an apostle of Christ, saved, could be “wrecked, condemned”!
- e. But Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church’s theologians do not agree with Paul and the Holy Spirit because they say that he cannot be wrecked or disapproved or condemned!
- f. But we believe the Holy Spirit and not Mr. David Martin or the Baptist Church’s teaching that once saved, always saved”!
- g. How different is the Word of God than the teachings of men!

20. **1 Corinthians 10:6** – “*Now these things were our examples, to the intent **we** should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.*”

- a. If “once saved, always saved” this will be without sense, brother Paul!
- b. “**We** should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.” How can we do this, brother Paul, there is no chance for us to do this because we have “eternal security”!

- c. That is what men like Mr. David Martin are saying to Paul, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit! We were “once saved, and we are “always saved” and we CANNOT “*lust after evil things, as they also lusted*” and be lost!
  - d. But the day will come when those who teach those things will know exactly what they were teaching to sincere people (Matthew 7:22-23).
21. **1 Corinthians 15:1-2** – “Moreover, ***brethren***, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, ***which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand***; <sup>2</sup>By which also ***ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.***”
- a. Paul says clearly that they were saved. They were his brethren, they have received the gospel, and they were standing in it.
  - b. But, according to inspiration, there was the possibility for them to fall from grace. “***if ye keep in memory*** what I preached unto you, ***unless ye have believed in vain.***”
  - c. But men try to twist God’s Word to make it agree with their false teachings, instead of making what they believe agree with God’s Word! (2 Peter 3:16b).
22. **2 Corinthians 11:3-4** – “***But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.*** <sup>4</sup>For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or ***if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.***”
- a. But did not the apostle Paul know that those to whom he was saying these things **were already saved**? They had received the spirit, they had received the gospel!
  - b. How can their minds “**be corrupted** from the simplicity that is in Christ” if they had “eternal security” as Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church teach?
  - c. How can they be beguiled if “once saved always saved”?
23. **Colossians 1:21-23** – “***And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled*** <sup>22</sup>***In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:*** <sup>23</sup>***If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached***

to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.”

- a. **“If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel.”**
- b. Why **“if ye continue** in the faith. . .and **be not moved away** from the hope of the gospel,” if they were saved, if they had eternal security, according to Mr. David Martin’s teaching?
- c. How can they stop from continuing in the faith and be moved away from the hope if “once saved always saved”?

24. **1 Timothy 1:3-6** – *“As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some **that they teach no other doctrine,** <sup>4</sup>Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. <sup>5</sup>Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: **From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling.**”*

- a. **“From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling.”**
- b. Those who have swerved were they saved or not? Yes.
- c. They have “swerved” from the “faith unfeigned.”
- d. But, again, Paul gave the wrong advice to Timothy if, according to Mr. David Martin and the teaching of the Baptist Church, if those had “eternal security”?
- e. But that is not what the Holy Spirit teaches us in His Word!
- f. We give heed to Paul’s advice!

25. **1 Timothy 1:18-20** – *“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; <sup>19</sup>Holding faith, and a good conscience; **which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:** <sup>20</sup>Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; **whom I have delivered unto Satan,** that they may learn not to blaspheme.”*

- a. According to Mr. David Martin, and the Baptist Church’s teaching, How can saved people make “shipwreck” of his or her faith?
- b. Was Paul’s “charge” to Timothy false?
- c. Were Hymenaeus and Alexander saved before they made shipwreck of the faith and conscience? Yes.
- d. If not, how can they make “shipwreck of the faith” if they were already “shipwrecked.”

- e. And Paul would have been wrong in telling Timothy that he “delivered them unto Satan” if they were not saved, because in that case, they would have been Satan’s all the time!
- f. Is he going to deliver them to Satan if they were not saved, that is, already Satan’s?
- g. Mr. David Martin, now that you have seen all this proof from God’s word, and still a lot more to come, do you still want to continue to teach that false teaching that you were taught?

26. **1 Timothy 3:1-6** – *“This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach; <sup>3</sup>Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous; <sup>4</sup>One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; <sup>5</sup>(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?) <sup>6</sup>Not a novice, **lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.**”*

- a. Sometimes when I read such clear scriptures I say to myself, how can, men like Mr. David Martin continue to believe in “eternal security” (once saved, always saved) after they have read such passages.
- b. **“Lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.”** How can, according to the teaching of Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church, from whom he got his false teaching, one “be lifted up with pride and **fall into the condemnation of the devil**”?
- c. Or now, Mr. David Martin, you are going to tell us that if one who is a Christian falls into the condemnation of the devil he is still saved!
- d. Here, in these verses we find the spiritual qualifications for *overseers* in a local congregation. The apostle Paul, contrary to Mr. David Martin, states his godly concerns that a *spiritual fatality*, through *pride*, could occur if a new Christian is given such a high position.
- e. The word translated “condemnation” has the meaning of *damnation* (eternal security) and is found in Jude 4, were we read, *“For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this **condemnation**, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.”* This word describes the destiny of the teachers who change *grace* into a licence of immorality.



- f. How can men like Mr. David Martin do not realize, as is shown here, the possibility of loss of salvation, through the sin of pride!
- g. Had the apostle Paul believed in eternal security it would have been impossible for him to warn to this degree.
- h. One has to notice here, too, that if such a new Christian would be spiritually stumbled like that, it would not be because he was predestined for such a sin or fall. Such a spiritual fatality could be avoided by knowledge and proper procedure.
- i. Keep in mind, too, that in Proverbs 16:18 we are told that “Pride goeth **before** destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.”
- j. And men like Mr. David Martin are not ready to admit that they are wrong and humble themselves and accept the Truth of the Word of God. PRIDE!

27. **1 Timothy 4:1** – “*Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall **depart from the faith**, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons.*”

- a. Contrary to what Mr. David Martin teaches, Paul openly wanted us, as Christians of the New Testament to know the real truth that **some** people, who had been washed in the blood of Jesus from their sin and received salvation, would **afterwards** turn and follow doctrines of demons!
- b. Paul knew (not as Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church) a true Christian could be deceived doctrinally *and become heretical*.
- c. Note, Mr. David Martin, that the same Greek word translated *depart* in 1 Timothy 4:1 is also found in Luke 8:13, which also describes what **Jesus said would happen to a true believer** who stops believing and consequently *falls away*.

28. **1 Timothy 4:16** – “*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; **continue in them**: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*”

- a. Why, Paul, should Timothy (and all Christians) “take heed” and “continue in them” if Timothy (and all other Christians) have eternal security?
- b. This is, David Martin, how to save yourself and your hearers.
- c. We have to “take heed” and “continue in the doctrine” to have salvation.
- d. Paul is here teaching that a Christian has a free will and human responsibility in his own salvation and will likewise affect others around him.

29. **1 Timothy 5:14-15** – “*I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully. <sup>15</sup>For some are already turned aside after Satan.*”
- “<sup>15</sup>For some are already turned aside after Satan.” Does this mean “eternal security” or “once saved, always saved”?
  - Be very careful, now, you who is reading this, not to be deceived. The apostle Paul *never* even suggested that if such occurs then you can be sure *they were never saved to begin with*, as Mr. David Martin might say in our day.
  - It is very very clear that the very widows that *turned away* previously had a *dedication to Christ* (read 1 Timothy 5:11-12).
30. **1 Timothy 6:9-11** – “*But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in **destruction** and perdition. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, **they have erred from the faith**, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. <sup>11</sup>But thou, **O man of God, flee these things**; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.*”
- Paul here is referring to Christians whom he knew that **wandered away from their salvation** because of their desire to *get rich*.
  - Paul knew of many people that did not stay saved, but that turned from their own salvation, apart from God’s will, and got back on the road to damnation once again.
  - Note Mr. David Martin, that the Greek word translated *destruction* in verse 9 is also found in Matthew 7:13 and refers to hell.
  - One must remember Jesus’ words: “Let them alone: *they be blind leaders of the blind*. And if the blind lead the blind, *both shall fall into the ditch*.” (Matthew 15:14).
31. **1 Timothy 6:20-21** – “*O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: <sup>21</sup>Which some **professing have erred concerning the faith**. **Grace be with thee. Amen.***”
- Why the admonition if their salvation was guaranteed?
  - As Paul fought legalism he also taught conditional security for the Christian. *Hence, to teach against **legalism** Is not to teach eternal security, like many have been deceived to think.*
  - The apostle taught, not as Mr. David Martin teaches, as only a conditional security teacher could. Paul knew many who turned from their salvation over various temptations and doctrines.

- d. Again, dear reader, be careful, Paul **never even implied** that those who turned away to follow Satan, abandoned the faith, wandered away from a pure heart, good conscience and sincere faith, etc. were **never saved to begin with**, as men like Mr. David Martin who believe in “once saved, always saved” would want us all to believe. In fact, Paul stressed the opposite.
  - e. Those people were previously saved and the same horrible thing can happen to any Christian, including Timothy and **you** the Christian reader.
  - f. Dear reader, face the facts, Paul, though he was an apostle, also knew that such could happen to even himself (1 Corinthians 9: 27), as it did to the apostle Judas Iscariot.
  - g. Again, and this answers Mr. David Martin’s question number 5, a Christian’s future sins are not already forgiven before he commits them, like Mr. David Martin thinks. If they were, then those referred to in 1 Timothy 1:5-6 could never have wandered away from a **pure** heart, which happened.
32. **2 Timothy 2:12-13** – *“If **we** suffer, we shall also reign with him: if **we** deny him, he also will deny **us**: If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself.”*
- a. “If **we**” Paul says, “**deny him, he also will deny us.**” How can “**we**,” Paul, Timothy, and other Christians deny Jesus and be denied by Him if they have “eternal security”?
  - b. How can Jesus deny them if they were “once saved, always saved”? Did not Paul knew this when he wrote those words?
  - c. That is why the **Holy Spirit** inspired Paul and the other writers to put down these admonitions in His Word because He knew that there will be false teachers who teach the false teaching of “eternal security.”
33. **2 Timothy 2:17-18** – *“And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is **Hymenaeus and Philetus**; <sup>18</sup>Who concerning the truth **have erred**, saying that the resurrection is past already; **and overthrow the faith of some.**”*
- a. Why Paul is warning Timothy and other Christians including us to be careful of false teachers if there is no danger of falling away from grace?
  - b. Canker poisons the whole frame and quickly becomes fatal. So does the introduction of things not taught by God—the doctrines of men. These doctrines (and one of them is the false teaching of eternal security) spread rapidly, corrupt the whole church till spiritual death ensues to the church of Christ.



- c. Error is a diffusive poison rapidly spreading through the whole body and tending to vital decay and ultimate destruction.
34. **Hebrews 2:1** – *“Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.”*
- “Lest at any time we should let them slip.” Or, rather, lest perchance we should be drifted away from them (*pararruomen* aor. 2, sub. Pass); the man who would reach the haven of eternal rest must of necessity make an effort. He must lay hold of all the means and helps which God has graciously provided and offered to him in the gospel; or otherwise, he must soon perish forever.
  - “Strive”, says Christ, *“to enter in at the strait gate; for many, will seek to enter in and shall not be able”* (Luke 13:24).
  - Why “strive” Christ? David Martin tells us that once we are saved, we are always saved” we need to do nothing because we have “eternal security,” he tells us, and you, Christ, tells us to strive? Why? Whom are you going to believe, Christ or Mr. David Martin?
  - And if they “slip” what will happen, Mr. David Martin? Will they still be saved if they do not repent? YES NO
  - If a Christian cannot lose his “salvation” according to your teach-ing will not this warning be in vain?
35. **Hebrews 3:14** – *“For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end.”*
- According to Mr. David Martin, this verse should read: “For we are made partakers of Christ eternally, because we have “eternal security” and once we are saved, we cannot lose our salvation.”
  - But God loves us very much and He gives us warnings to hold steadfast till the end.
  - If there is no possibility of *falling from grace*, why this admonition? Why “**IF we hold...stedfast unto the end**”?
  - We have not yet reached the end of the course. We are still in a state of trial; and we are therefore ever liable to lose through our neglect or disobedience that of which we have already to a certain extent become partakers; but which, for the present, we hold on certain conditions. (See Matthew 8:12).
36. **Hebrews 10:26-27, 38** – *“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, <sup>27</sup>But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries. .*

. <sup>38</sup>*Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.*”

- a. To sin wilfully **after that we have received the knowledge of the truth** is the same as to apostatize from Christ, for which there is no forgiveness.
- b. The use of the present participle (*hamartanonton*) shows that the sin is not one of error or inadvertence; not a sin of momentary excitement; but rather that it is a sin of *habit*; a sin that is willingly and deliberately persisted in; a sin that is committed with a high hand and in open violation and contempt of God’s law.
- c. Mr. David Martin, (and all those who teach the same), please give heed to this warning in these verses and stop teaching that false teaching of the Baptist Church about eternal security.
- d. Do you know that the word rendered *knowledge* (*epignosis*) means more than a mere objective knowledge (*gnosis*) of the truth. It rather denotes a full experiential knowledge, such as we gain by the active application of our minds to the study of the truth. And hence it is of “*those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gifts, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted of the good Word of God and the powers of the world to come,*” that the writer of Hebrews speaks.
- e. If such a person apostatize from Christ—“*there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.*” This means that the man who was once a Christian, a true child of God, and who as such was made a part-aker of the Holy Spirit, **and yet falls away as an apostate from Christ**, can obtain no more forgiveness in any way.
- f. “*But a certain fearful looking for of judgment.*” This is the fearful condition of every apostate from Christ. Cut off from all hope of being saved, no matter, how men like Mr. David Martin, try to teach about eternal security, nothing remains for him but a certain fearful anticipation of coming judgment and a fervor of fire which will finally consume all the enemies of God.
- g. “**But if any man draw back**, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.” The words “*any man*” are not in the original. It is not “any man,” but the “*just man*,” of whom God speaks, and I hope that Mr. David Martin, after seeing this, will no longer continue to teach the false teaching of eternal security.
- h. It is of the man who **was once justified by his faith, and who lived by his faith, that the affirmation is made.**
- i. The *just man* shall live by his faith; **but if he [the just man] draw back [then] my soul shall have no pleasure in him.**

- j. Either the Holy Spirit is wrong, who inspired the writer of Hebrews to put down these things, or Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church are wrong! But we know who is wrong!
37. **2 Peter 1:10-11** – *“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: **for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall**: <sup>11</sup>For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.”*
- a. “**For IF** ye do these things, ye shall never fall.” And **IF WE DO NOT DO THEM?** Shall we fall or not?
38. **1 Peter 4:17** – *“For the time is come that judgment **must begin at the house of God**: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?”*
- a. Why judgment for the house of God if they already have “eternal security”? It will be a waste of time, Mr. David Martin!
39. **2 Peter 2:20-22** – *“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. <sup>21</sup>For it had been better for them **not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them**. <sup>22</sup>But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, **The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.**”*
- a. One has to be very careful about what men like Mr. David Martin may say about these verses.
- b. What they are doing, by trying to explain away what Peter wrote about **those that return to their sins after escaping their entanglement in them**, in their ignorance they are unaware they are actually demeaning the blood of Jesus by their interpretation.
- c. The truth is: **it is only coming into contact with the blood of Christ at the point of salvation that will enable one to be freed from sin’s slavery and bondage which the people in 2 Peter 2:20-21 did experience.**
- d. Nothing else according to Scripture will do this; and teachers like Mr. David Martin who teach eternal security have never produced a Scripture to show something else can.
- e. However, one must be very careful about their worldly explanations which they present and ears that want to be tickled quickly not in agreement when they try to explain why the people of 2

Peter 2:20-22 were *never really saved*, and thus protect their false doctrine.

- f. “For if **after** they have **escaped** the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are **again entangled therein**, and overcome, **the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.**”
- g. Can words be clearer? “*After they have escaped...they are again entangled therein...the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.*”
- h. They were **free** through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- i. They were **entangled again** in the pollutions of the world.
- j. The **latter end is worse with them than the beginning.**
- k. “<sup>21</sup>For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, **to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.**”
- l. Why it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness? Because they have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Saviour, they were saved.
- m. “And the sow that was **washed** to her wallowing in the mire.” Like the sow that was **washed**, they were **washed** by the blood of Christ, the same, like the sow to her wallowing in the mire, they turned from the holy commandment to the pollution of the world.

40. **2 Peter 3:17** – “*Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.*”

- a. Why, Peter, beware if, according to David Martin, we are once saved, always saved, if we have eternal security?
- b. How can we, Peter, be led away with the error of the wicked, fall from our own steadfastness if, according to Mr. David Martin, we are once saved, always saved, if we have eternal security?
- c. What kind of words are these, Peter, we can never be led with the error of the wicked, or fall from our steadfastness. I believe that when the Holy Spirit inspired you to write, Peter, you misun-derstood Him, but we are very fortunate to have men like Mr. David Martin to tell us the truth.
- d. Please, read Acts 5:29 now.

41. **1 John 2:26-27** – “*These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. <sup>27</sup>But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as*

*the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”*

- a. The word “seduce” means “to entice away or persuade (almost invariably in sense of leading away from good to evil), to corrupt.
- b. To whom John was saying these things? To believers, children of God.
- c. If they had eternal security, what was the purpose of John writing to them that there were those who were seducing them?
- d. Does not this mean that there were some Christians who were seduced or in danger of being seduced?

42. **1 John 3:7-8** – *“Little children, **let no man deceive you**: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup>He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”*

- a. Again, did the apostle John not know that we have nothing to worry about being deceived because we already have eternal security? That is what Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church teach.
- b. But we believe John who was inspired by the Holy Spirit that a Christian **can be deceived as to lose his salvation!**

43. **2 John 1:8** – *“**Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.**”*

- a. Will there be a need to “look to yourselves” Mr. David Martin, if they had already eternal security?
- b. It will be without any sense for John to tell them *“**that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward**”* if the reward was already theirs by having eternal security!

44. **Revelation 2:10-11, 26** – *“**Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.** <sup>11</sup>He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; **He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.** . . . <sup>26</sup>**And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations.**”*

- a. Was John writing to saved people? Yes, do you agree Mr. David Martin?

- b. If they were not Christians why “**be thou faithful unto death**”?
  - c. And if there was no danger of ever falling from grace, why the admonitions: “**he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end**”?
  - d. Surely there was a possibility that some will not overcome and will lose their salvation, that is, they will not receive the crown of life.
45. **Revelation 3:4-5** – “*Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. <sup>5</sup>Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*”
- a. If one leaves “his first love,” according to God’s Word, will he still be saved?
  - b. If one falls from whence he was, and do not repent, will he still be saved?
  - c. Jesus gives us the answer and we do not need Mr. David Martin to explain it to us: “*or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.*”
  - d. Where is “eternal security” taught here? Jesus removes it!
46. **Revelation 2:15-16** – “*So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate. <sup>16</sup>Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.*”
- a. Why “repent”? From what, if they have eternal security?
  - b. “**Or else.**” There should be no “or else” according to Mr. David Martin because they were saved and always saved!
47. **Revelation 3:16** – “*So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*”
- a. To whom Jesus is talking here, to Christians or unsaved people?
  - b. To the **church** at Laodicea.
  - c. But they were supposed to have, according to Mr. David Martin, eternal security, they cannot lose their salvation by being spued out of the Saviour’s mouth!
  - d. Who is right, Jesus or Mr. David Martin?
48. **Revelation 21:8** – “*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*”



- a. We have to teach only the truth and not our opinions or someone else's opinions.
  - b. We have to tell only the truth of the Word of God and not mix it with Calvinistic or someone else's interpretations.
49. **Galatians 6:7-9** – *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup>For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. <sup>9</sup>And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, **if we faint not.**”*
- a. **“If we faint not.”** Paul included himself.
  - b. But Paul, how can we faint, Mr. David Martin tells us that we have eternal security and we cannot sin as to lose our salvation?
  - c. Who is right, the apostle Paul, or Mr. David Martin?

The real truth is a true Christians can sin in such a way as to bring him back into spiritual death and endanger him to the lake of fire again (James 1:14-16; 5:19-20; Luke 15:24, 32; Gal. 5:19-21; 6:8-9; Rom. 6:16; 8:13; Rev. 2:10-11). This is the real **sin unto death**, as mentioned by John in 1 John 5:16-17.

Do not be deceived by the false teachings of men.

**Colossians 2:8** – *“Beware lest **any man** spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”*

**1 John 3:7-8** – *“Little children, **let no man deceive you**: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. <sup>8</sup>He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”*

**Ephesians 5:6** – *“Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”*

**Acts 5:29** – *“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**”*

Now that you have seen all these clear Scriptural examples, Mr. David Martin, are you ready to humble yourself and put aside all the false teachings about eternal security or once saved always saved that you have been taught before? I hope and pray that your answer will not be “No” but “YES!”

And you, who have read this, are you ready to become a New Testament Christian in the church that Christ said that He was going to build or are you going to persist in that false teaching of men?

**David Martin asks:**

5. If as a Christian I can sin so as to "lose my salvation," **just what sin or sins** will place me in such danger? Is it possible to know at what point one has committed such a sin, and become lost again? Please be specific and give clear Bible references.

• **My Answer:**

Again, this shows very very clearly that Mr. David Martin does not read the whole New Testament, at least! He wants me, as a preacher of the church of Christ, *to be specific and give clear Bible references*. I hope that he will accept them after I have quoted them. Those who teach the false teaching of "eternal security," or "once saved, always saved" teach that a Christian **cannot** sin as to lose his salvation because his sins are already forgiven, some of those false teachers even go so far as to say that a *Christian's future sins are already forgiven*, even before they are committed. I am not sure if Mr. David Martin also believes this! He wanted us to be *specific* but this does not apply to himself, he was not specific in what he said. Some say that you will never have to confess those sins to God that you committed after conversion, repent of them, forgive others who sinned against you, etc. to be purified, forgiven and cleansed, since you were never contaminated by any sin after conversion. In contrast, the ***spiritual danger*** of failing to do these is clear to anyone who has read through the New Testament with spiritual ears to hear and eyes to see, yet is seemingly hidden from the security-in-sin teachers themselves.

Let me cite some of the reasons why Christians can sin and lose their salvation as long as **they do not repent**.

1. **1 John 3:4** – "*Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.*"
  - a. Why Mr. David Martin wants to know "**just what sin or sins** will place me in such danger" of losing his salvation I do not know, because the Bible is very clear about this, "**sin is the transgression of the law.**" If one sins, he is lost **unless he repents** of his sin or sins. (More about *repentance* later on).
2. **Matthew 6:5-15** – "*And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be*



seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. <sup>6</sup>But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. <sup>7</sup>But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking. <sup>8</sup>Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him. <sup>9</sup>After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. <sup>10</sup>Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>Give us this day our daily bread. <sup>12</sup>And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. <sup>13</sup>And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. <sup>14</sup>**For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: <sup>15</sup>But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.**”

3. **Luke 15:7** – “I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over **one sinner that repenteth**, more than over ninety and nine just persons, **which need no repentance.**”
  - a. But according Mr. David Martin, what kind of sinners Jesus was talking about who needed repentance?
  - b. There should be none, according to him!
4. **Luke 15:10** – “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over **one sinner that repenteth**.”
5. **James 5:20** – “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.”
6. **Revelation 3:4** – “Thou hast a few names even in Sardis **which have not defiled their garments**; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.”
  - a. These words are said by our Lord Himself to Christians, after His infinite death on the cross for every person’s sins.
  - b. There were **few names in Sardis which have not defiled their garments** and this shows that all the others in the church at Sardis did *defile* their spiritual clothes and were no longer **worthy** to walk with Jesus dressed in white.
  - c. Mr. David Martin, How did the majority, who were previously saved, get **undefiled**?

- d. The answer is clear when you realize that **sin can defile a Christian and even bring him to his spiritual death.**
  - e. That is why the Holy Spirit gave us the following Scripture:
7. **1 Timothy 5:22** – *“Lay hands suddenly on no man, **neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.**”*
    - a. Paul believed, not as Mr. David Martin teaches, that Timothy was in danger and could become spiritually *defiled* again through sin and consequently told him to keep himself pure.
    - b. It will be without any sense for Paul to tell Timothy that, if he believed as Mr. David Martin teaches!
  8. **Romans 8:13** – *“For **if** ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but **if** ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”*
    - a. Paul and the other disciples were repeatedly teaching to the point of telling Christians they could *die* spiritually through sin and *not inherit the kingdom of God.*
    - b. “IF.” What that means, “IF”?
  9. **James 1:14-16** – *“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. <sup>15</sup>Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: **and sin**, when it is finished, **bringeth forth death.** <sup>16</sup>**Do not err, my beloved brethren.**”*
    - a. This every true Christian must keep in his mind: “<sup>16</sup>**Do not err, my beloved brethren.**”
  10. **Galatians 5:19-21** – *“Do not err, **my beloved brethren.** <sup>20</sup>Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strifes, seditions, heresies, <sup>21</sup>Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*
  11. **Matthew 5:21-22** – *“Ye have heard that it was said of them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and **whosoever** shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: <sup>22</sup>But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and **whosoever** shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.”*
    - a. Does this apply to a Christian?

- b. Is a Christian “immune” to become “angry” or even to *commit* “murder”?
- c. Can a Christian *commit* murder?
- d. Do I need to explain more?
- e. Do not forget that Jesus said, “**whosoever**”!
12. **Matthew 5:27-28** – “*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: <sup>28</sup>But I say unto you, That **whosoever** looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.*”
- a. Does this apply to a Christian?
- b. Is a Christian “immune” to adultery?
- c. Can a Christian *commit* adultery in the way that Jesus is saying here?
- d. Do I need to explain more?
- e. Am I being specific or not?
13. **Matthew 26:69-75** – “*Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee. <sup>70</sup>But **he denied** before them all, saying, **I know not what thou sayest.** <sup>71</sup>And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, **This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.** <sup>72</sup>And again **he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.** <sup>73</sup>And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, **Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.** <sup>74</sup>**Then began he to curse and to swear, I know not the man.** And immediately the cock crew. <sup>75</sup>And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, **Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly.**”*
- a. Is cursing and lying a sin? Yes.
- **Psalms 59:12** – “*For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.*”
  - **Acts 5:3** – “*But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*” (See also James 3:10).
  - **James 3:10** – “*Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, **these things ought not so to be.***”

- b. Did Peter, an apostle, a saved person, cursed and lied? YES. Was he still saved at the time he lied and cursed? Surely no one will answer yes!
- c. Is swearing a sin? Yes.
  - **Hosea 10:4** – *“They have spoken words, **swearing falsely** in making a covenant: thus judgment springeth up as hemlock in the furrows of the field.”*

**Did Peter swear falsely?** Yes!

- **Matthew 5:34** – *“But I say unto you, **Swear not at all**; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne.”* (see also James 5:12)
  - d. Did the **apostle** Peter *lied, cursed and swore*? Yes
  - e. Again, was he still saved at the time that he lied, cursed and swore, breaking directly the law of God?
  - f. When he regained his salvation? After he *repented* of his sins: ***“And he went out, and wept bitterly.”***
  - g. But Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church have their own laws and not God’s laws!
14. **2 John 1:8** – *“Look to yourselves, **that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.**”*
- a. The apostle John, here, is urging Christians (“**we**”) to be careful of false teachers and to be very careful that we do not lose those truths we have looked for, but that we receive a full reward.
  - b. Many people in John’s day had to give up their lives to be Christians. Many of them had to spend time in prison.
  - c. John is saying, *“Let us beware lest, after making all those sacrifices, we lose our reward.”* How different from what false teachers are teaching today!
  - d. Ezekiel said, *“Behold, all souls are Mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is Mine; the soul that sins, it shall die. <sup>20</sup>The soul that sins, it [is the one that] shall die. The son shall not bear and be punished for the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear and be punished for the iniquity of the son; the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him only, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon the wicked only”* (Ezekiel 18:4, 20).
  - e. Chapter 18 discusses a certain man who began to serve the Lord faithfully, gave much, made all the sacrifices, and lived

the moral life—then toward the end of his life, denied the faith. Ezekiel says all of his righteousness was for naught.

f. Thus, John is saying *to beware that you do not lose your reward at the end.*

g. Mr. David Martin, have you ever been taught this before?

15. **Revelation 3:1-6** – “*And unto the angel **of the church** in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy **works**, that thou hast a name that thou livest, **and art dead.** <sup>2</sup>Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, **that are ready to die:** for I have not found **thy works** perfect before God. <sup>3</sup>Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, **and repent.** If therefore thou **shalt not watch,** I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee. <sup>4</sup>Thou hast a few names even in Sardis **which have not defiled their garments;** and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy. <sup>5</sup>**He that overcometh,** the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. <sup>6</sup>**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.**”*

a. Mr. David Martin, have you ever read this?

b. Now, you who are reading this, be careful and listen to our Lord what He says about this church and do not let men like Mr. David Martin try to twist Jesus’ words. Jesus’s words are plain and simple!

c. This is addressed not to unbelievers but to a whole **church!**

d. They were *Christians* but “were **dead**” spiritually, **lost.**

e. Why the Lord told them to REPENT?

f. Why “*if therefore thou shalt not watch...*” if they had “eternal security”, or, as Mr. David Martin and the Baptist Church teaches, “once saved, always saved”?

g. Jesus says to them, “*Thou hast a **few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments...***” Does not this mean that there were others, Christians, *who were once saved, and now have defiled their garments?*

h. Were they still saved after they had defiled their garments?

i. Maybe Mr. David Martin will try to tell us that *they were never saved from the beginnig,* because that is what men who teach that false doctrine of eternal security say, but, remember, Mr. David Martin, you wanted me, as a preacher

of the church of Christ, *to be specific*, so be specific yourself and tell us **were does the Lord says that they were never saved from the beginning?** Just write down: Revelation 3:... - .... As simple as that!

- j. **“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”** Many have ears but they do not want to hear what the Lord says, they prefer to continue in the doctrines of men rather than obeying God! (Acts 5:29).
- k. **You who are reading this, are you one of those?**

At this point, I believe, that I had been specific enough, so I will stop here, I can quote pages of other Scriptures showing how false is the teaching of “eternal security” or “once saved, always saved.” It has been proven, not by me, but by the Word of God, that sin committed **after conversion can defile a Christian, bring him to spiritual death and cause him not to inherit the kingdom of God.**

***“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”***

I hope that Mr. David Martin and others who teach the same have an ear that can hear Jesus’ words and do not continue to teach that false teaching!

#### **David Martin asks:**

6. If as a Christian I can fall and "lose my salvation," **is it possible to regain it?** If so, **how?** If God "takes away" my salvation, doesn't that make Him an "Indian giver"? How could I ever know for sure that I was saved or lost?

- **My Answer:**

I believe that I have already answered this question in my answer to question 5. But at least, Mr. David Martin is asking. He wants to know! Now the problem will be if he is ready to accept the truth or not! There is a very simple answer to this question and is give to Mr. David Martin, again, not by me, but by the Lord Himself. Please read carefully, Mr. David Martin the following:

1. **Luke 15:11-32** – ***“And he said, A certain man **had two sons:** <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to **his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.** <sup>13</sup>And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there **wasted his substance with riotous living.** <sup>14</sup>And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. <sup>15</sup>And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his***



fields to feed swine. <sup>16</sup>And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. <sup>17</sup>**And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, <sup>19</sup>And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. <sup>20</sup>And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: <sup>23</sup>And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: <sup>24</sup>**For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.** And they began to be merry. <sup>25</sup>Now his elder son was in the field: and as he came and drew nigh to the house, he heard musick and dancing. <sup>26</sup>And he called one of the servants, and asked what these things meant. <sup>27</sup>And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound. <sup>28</sup>And he was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and intreated him. <sup>29</sup>And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: <sup>30</sup>But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. <sup>31</sup>And he said unto him, **Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. <sup>32</sup>It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.**”**

- a. It is a great pity that some men ask certain questions, as the one that the Lord is answering Mr. David Martin, when the answer is found clearly in God's Word. This shows that they read the Scriptures but they do not care what the Scriptures really say. They are so conditioned to the teaching of their religious leaders that when they read a parable like the one in Luke 15:11-32 they do not even realize that it is teaching contrary to what they have been taught and they continue to teach that false teaching, as one can see from Mr. David Martin's question (see Matt. 15:14).
  - i. First, Mr. David Martin asks: If as a Christian I can fall and "lose my salvation," **is it possible to regain it?** The answer



is **YES, you can**. Did the younger son had salvation before he left his father's house? He was a son, and that means that he was saved, one of the family! Whom does the Father represent in the parable? God. So the young son was a member of the family of God, saved. But the son "**sinned against heaven and before thee.**" Was he still saved when he was in sin? Are you ready to let Jesus, Mr. David Martin, to answer this question? Hear Jesus' answer: "<sup>24</sup>***For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. . .*** <sup>32</sup>***for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found.***" Jesus says that the son was DEAD, was LOST. Does that means that the son was still saved? Surely not! But Mr. David Martin has to let Jesus answer him not some teachers of the Baptist Church! But sometimes, some men prefer the answers of other men those of the Lord (2 Tim. 4:3-4).

- ii. Mr. David Martin continues to ask: "If so, **how?**" **By coming to your senses and repent the same as what the son did.** "<sup>17</sup>***And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! <sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, <sup>19</sup>And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants . . . <sup>21</sup>And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.***"
- iii. Again, Mr. David Martin wants to make fun with God. He says: "If God "takes away" my salvation, doesn't that make Him an "Indian giver"?" Is this the way that one who is supposed to preach God's Word defend it? Was the Father of the parable and "Indian giver," Mr. David Martin? God does not "take away" your salvation, Mr. David Martin, but you yourself lose it as did the young son. It was not the Father who made the young son "lost" or "dead" but this situation was brought on the young son by himself! The Father was a loving Father who is always ready to **forgive** his children **as long as they repent of their sins**. Was the elder son saved at the time that his brother came? Yes. "<sup>31</sup>And he said unto him, **Son, thou art ever with me**, and all that I have **is thine.**" But the younger son was not yet restored. But after he asked forgiveness ("**I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son**") his loving Father

forgave him and he was restored again into the family as a son! (“for this thy brother **was dead, and is alive again;** and **was lost, and is found**”). If this is not clear and *specific* enough to Mr. David Martin, from the mouth of our Lord Himself, then I do not think that he can be convinced that he is teaching a false doctrine, that is, of “once saved, always saved” or “eternal security.”

- iv. Then Mr. David Martin asks another important last question: “How could I ever know for sure that I was saved or lost? Does not Jesus answer your question clearly in this parable?  
(1) “And he said, A certain man **had two sons:** <sup>12</sup>And the younger of them said to **his father, Father,. . .**” The son was **SAVED** *and he was sure about it.*  
(2) “<sup>18</sup>I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, **Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,** <sup>19</sup>**And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants . . .** <sup>21</sup>And the son said unto him, Father, **I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.**” The son was **LOST** *and he was sure about it.* He knew that he was “a son” (saved) and he knew that he was “lost in sin.”  
(3) “For this thy brother **was dead, and is alive again;** and **was lost, and is found.**” The son was **SAVED AGAIN** (restored) *and he was sure about it.*
- v. I hope that Mr. David Martin will come to his senses the same as did the young son and put aside that false teaching that he was taught and now is teaching to others which leads to eternal destruction! (Matthew 15:14).
- vi. I can quote other clear Scriptures to show how mistaken is Mr. David Martin but the parable of the Prodigal Son is clear enough.

### **Mr. David Martin asks:**

7. After becoming a Christian, are there any sins that will put me beyond the "point of no return" so that I cannot regain salvation? **What sin or sins will put me in such jeopardy, so that, after becoming a Christian, I would be doomed to hell** without any recourse? Please be specific and give me clear Bible references.

### • **My Answer:**

Again, Mr. David Martin wants me, as a preacher of the church of Christ to be *specific*. The Word of God explains *clearly* that a child of

God, who has sinned, must **repent and pray for his forgiveness**. The Word of God does not leave us in the dark about this and those who do not want to know the truth do not understand this. A clear example is found in Acts 8:9-24. Simon was converted to Christ by the preaching of the gospel. We read: *“<sup>9</sup>But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:”* Keep in mind, that his example is given to us by the Holy Spirit Himself so that we can help men who ask us such questions as the one that I am answering. Simon believed and was baptized into Christ. *“<sup>12</sup>But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. . . <sup>13</sup>Then **Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip**, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”*

There can be not doubt that Simon became a child of God, he was a saved man. Now, again, be very careful not to let men like Mr. David Martin to tell you that Simon was not saved from the beginning. Ask them to quote from the Scriptures **were does the Bible say so!** We want the Holy Spirit to tell us so not Mr. David Martin! Dear reader, accept only what the Holy Spirit tells you and not a word from Mr. David Martin and even not a word from myself! (Acts 17:11).

Later Simon sinned against God because he sought to obtain the gift of God with money. The apostle Peter, who new that Simon was a saved person before he sinned, told him. *“<sup>21</sup>Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. <sup>22</sup>**Repent** therefore of this thy wickedness, **and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.** <sup>23</sup>For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.”*

You see, Mr. David Martin, how the Holy Spirit answers your question? Why the apostle Peter told him to “repent” if he was not saved? If Simon did not **repent and prayed to God for forgiveness**, yes, he will be doomed to hell! Now, whether Mr. David Martin agrees with this or not, nothing is going to be changed, that is why the Holy Spirit put that account in His Word to teach the truth about, among other things, the question of Mr. David Martin. A child of God, who believed and was baptized into Christ was told to **repent and pray to God for forgiveness** for the sin of his heart. Why did Simon told Peter: *“<sup>24</sup>Then answered Simon, and said, **Pray ye to the LORD for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.**”*

Because he knew that he was *condemned* at the time that he sinned and needed repentance and forgiveness.

A child of God must repent of his sins and pray for forgiveness. If his sins are of public nature, then he should make a public confession of them and ask both God and his brethren to forgive.

I hope the Mr. David Martin knows what Jesus says: “*I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent**, ye shall all likewise perish.*” (Luke 13:3). Yes, you must repent, or perish! As simple as that.

### Mr. David Martin asks:

8. If I committed some sin—whether in thought, word, or deed, one minute before a fatal car crash - **would I go to hell if I did not have time to repent of it?** And, please, don't just say that it's up to God without giving me a specific Bible reference.

- My Answer:

I, as a preacher of the church of Christ, can only answer what the New Testament says, and will not let Mr. David Martin to tell me what to say and not to say. He said: “And, please, don't just say that it's up to God without giving me a specific Bible reference.” We have no problem to give Bible references because God’s Word tells us that: “*Accor-ding as his divine power **hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:***” (2 Peter 1:3). Yes, we have the knowled-ge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue” so we do not have any problem to answer any questions.

Were the Bible tells us, Mr. David Martin, that “If I committed some sin-whether in thought, word, or deed, one minute before a fatal car crash – **I will not go to hell if I did not have time to repent of it, were?**” You want us to be *specific*, but does this not apply to you also, that is, to be *specific*? At least you could have quoted the book, chapter and verse were we can find it! You are trying to decieve your readers by using “sentimentalism.” Please quote the book, chapter and verse were the Bible says what you are saying? But the Bible tells us clearly what one *has to do to be saved*. The Bible tells us clearly, as I have shown in questions 3-7 that if one does not “**repent**” of his sins, *he cannot be saved*. That is what our Lord says, and not me!

The apostle Paul says in Galatians 1:6-9, “*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ **unto another gospel:*** <sup>7</sup>*Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.* <sup>8</sup>*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have*

*preached unto you, let him be accursed.* <sup>9</sup>*As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*”

Now, Mr. David Martin, do you know what is the *gospel* that we are to preach to every creature? I do not think that you know, because if you knew you would not have asked the question that you asked. Hear the Lord Himself telling you what is the true gospel: “*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. <sup>16</sup>He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*” Who shall be damned? **he that believeth not shall be damned.**” And who shall be saved? “<sup>16</sup>**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.**” Are you going to try to change the Lord’s words, Mr. David Martin? But we are warned about men who are teaching another gospel like: “If I committed some sin - whether in thought, word, or deed, one minute before a fatal car crash - **would I go to hell if I did not have time to repent of it?**” (which your answer to this surely is “no.” But the Holy Spirit tells us “*...but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*” Yes, this is perversion of the gospel of Christ.

What you are asking and what you believe, is it in the name of Christ? “*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*” If I say, as Mr. David Martin is saying, that “if I committed some sin - whether in thought, word, or deed, one minute before a fatal car crash - **I will go to heaven even if I did not have time to repent of it**” will that be in the name of Christ? NO! Men like Mr. David Martin must remember that we cannot add to or take from God’s Word. He must remember that “all authority is given to Jesus in Heaven and on earth” (Rev. 22:18-19; Matthew 28:18). And who gave Mr. David Martin, or the Baptist Church the authority to add their opinions to the Word of God? According to Mr. David Martin there will be sinners in Heaven who did not repented of their sins! And what will be the difference if one had a fatal accident an hour after he has sinned or two hours or ten minutes? Are you saying, Mr. David Martin, that God is a respecter of persons?

When people asked “what must they do to be saved?” they were told clearly what to do. (Acts 2:36-38).

Hear what John has to say: “**Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly**, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.” (Rev. 2:16). Why “**repent; or else I will come unto thee**

**quickly**” if one can be saved without repenting! But according Mr. David Martin, if one sins and Jesus comes “quickly” the sinner will be saved just the same because he did not had the chance to repent! But hear what Jesus continues to say: “<sup>17</sup>**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.**”

Again we read in **Revelation 3:3**, “Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and **hold fast, and repent**. If therefore thou shalt not watch, **I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.**” If I were Mr. David Martin I would answer Jesus and tell Him that it will be not fair for Him to **come as a thief**, or **quickly** without any notice so that I will have the chance to repent! **Is not this the same as if some kind of accident happened to one “before he had the time to repent of it?”**

Jesus tells us what to do if such accidents happen: “**Watch** therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”<sup>43</sup> But know this, that **if** the goodman of the house had known in what watch **the thief would come**, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up. **Therefore be ye also ready:** for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.” (Matthew 24:42-44). “**Watch therefore.**” We have to be on watch continually and that is what I, as a preacher of the church of Christ teach my brethren and not try to decieve them by putting false hopes into their minds.

### **Mr. David Martin asks:**

9. Why does the "Church of Christ" insist that **their name** is scriptural when it **cannot be found anywhere in the Bible**? The church is referred to as the "church of God" eight (8) times in the Bible, but **never** is it called the "church of Christ." The verse they use is Romans 16:16, but it doesn't say "church of Christ." Where does **the Bible** call the church the "church of Christ"?

#### • **My Answer:**

Either I did not understood what David Martin is asking or else. I will let Mr. David Martin Himself give the answer to himself. In question 1, Mr. David Martin said this: “. . . Jesus said that the gates of hell would not prevail against **His church** (Matthew 16:18). (emphasis mine).

- a. Mr. David Martin, whom Peter said that Jesus was? If you are not sure, I will quote the exact words of Peter: “*And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*” (Matthew 16:16).
- b. Then, Mr. David Martin, what Jesus said to Peter? If you are not sure, I will quote the exact words of Jesus: “*And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*” (Matthew 16:17). So this means, that, that Jesus is the Christ was revealed by the Father which is in heaven and not by the Baptist Church which is on earth.
- c. Then, Mr. David Martin, what Jesus said to Peter about building the church, and which church? If you are not sure, I will quote the exact words of Jesus: “*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell (Hades) shall not prevail against it.*” Mr. David Martin knows this verse well because he quoted it in his question, number 1, but unfortunately he does not know exactly what Jesus said and to what Jesus referred to in it!
- d. “I will build my church” Jesus said after He was declared to be the Christ. Now, Mr. David Martin, If I, George, have a house, and I tell you that the house belongs to me, whose house do you say it is? Will you be wrong if you answer: It is the “house of George.”
- e. Now, CHRIST said, “I will build MY CHURCH.”
- f. Now I think that you are going to have a very big problem to answer this very very difficult question that I am going to ask you: “WHOSE CHURCH IS IT?” Is there any other answer than: “THE CHURCH OF CHRIST”? Now we will see who is *specific* and who is not, I, George Ebejer as a preacher of the church of Christ, or Mr. David Martin as a pastor of the Baptist Church?
- g. Now about Romans 16:16. You said that this verse does not say “church of Christ” but you did not say what that verse says! Remember that you wanted us to be *specific*! Why you did not say what Romans 16:16 really says? Why? At least you could have quoted that verse so that your readers would know exactly what it really says! But you did not! Please, try to respect a little more the intelligence of your readers. I am sure that they would like to know what that verse really says! But you left them in the dark.



You wanted us to quote from the King James Version. This is what this version says in Romans 16:16 – “*Salute one another with an holy kiss. **The churches of Christ salute you.***” (emphasis mine.) The plural is referring to congregations of the church of Christ. It does not say, “The Baptist churches salute you...” In fact, there are many *different* Baptist Churches that teach different doctrines, and you know well, Mr. David Martin. Every denomination, claims to be the church of Christ, I was a Catholic, and they use to tell me that we were the church of Christ, but that does not make them the church of Christ.

- h. Now, to be specific, Mr. David Martin, let us see what other versions say in that verse:
- (1) NIV – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** send greetings.”
  - (2) NASB – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** greet you.”
  - (3) The Message – “Holy embraces all around! All the **churches of Christ** send their warmest greetings!”
  - (4) Amplified Bible – “Greet one another with a holy (consecrated) kiss. All the **churches of Christ** (the Messiah) wish to be remembered to you.”
  - (5) New Living Translation – “Greet one another with a holy (consecrated) kiss. All the **churches of Christ** (the Messiah) wish to be remembered to you.”
  - (6) English Standard Version – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** greet you.”
  - (7) Contemporary English Version – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** greet you.”
  - (8) New King James Version – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The **churches of Christ** greet you.”
  - (9) 21<sup>st</sup>. Century King James Version – “Salute one another with a holy kiss. The **churches of Christ** salute you.”
  - (10) American Standard Version – “Salute one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** salute you.”
  - (11) Young’s Literal Translation – “Salute one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** salute you.”
  - (12) Darby Translation – “Salute one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ salute you.”
  - (13) New Life Version – “Salute one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** salute you.”

- (14) Holman Christian Standard Bible – “Salute one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** salute you.”
- (15) New International’s Reader Version – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** send you greetings.”
- (16) Wycliffe New Testament – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** send you greetings.”
- (17) Worldwide English (New Testament) – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** send you greetings.”
- (18) New International Version - UK – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the **churches of Christ** send greetings.”
- (19) 1818 Westcott-Hort New Testament – “ασπασασθε αλληλους εν φιληματι αγιω ασπαζονται υμας αι **εκκλησiai πασαι του χριστου**”
- (20) 1550 Stephanus New Testament – “ασπασασθε αλληλους εν φιληματι αγιω ασπαζονται υμας αι **εκκλησiai του χριστου**”
- (21) 1894 Scrivener New Testament – “ασπασασθε αλληλους εν φιληματι αγιω ασπαζονται υμας αι **εκκλησiai του χριστου**”
- (22) Hiligaynon Bible – “Magkamustahanay kamo bilang maglutod kay Cristo. Ang tanan nga mga **iglesya nga iya ni Cristo** nagapangamusta dira sa inyo.”
- (23) Croatian Bible – “Pozdravite jedni druge svetim cjelovom. **Sve Kristove** crkve salju vam pozdrave.”
- (24) Hungarian Károli – “Köszöntsétek egymást szent csHkolás-sal. **Köszöntenek titeket a Krisztus** gyülekezetei.”
- (25) Icelandic Bible – “HeilsisĆ hver öĆrum meĆ heilögum kossi. **Allir söfnuĆir Krists** senda yĆur kveĆju.”
- (26) La Nuova Diodati – “Salutatevi gli uni gli altri con un santo bacio; le **chiese di Cristo** vi salutano.”
- (27) La Parola è Vita – “Salutatevi gli uni gli altri con un santo bacio; le **chiese di Cristo** vi salutano.”
- (28) Nova Versao Internacional – “SaZdem uns aos outros com beijo santo. Todas as **igrejas de Cristo** enviam-lhes saudações.”
- (29) Romanian – “Spuneți-vă sănătate unii altora cu o sărutare sfântă. Toate **Bisericile lui Hristos** vă trimet Sănătate.”

(30) 1934 Vietnamese Bible – “Anh em hãy lấy cái hôn thánh mà chào nhau. Hết thấy các Hội thánh **của Đấng Christ** chào anh em.”

Do I need to be more specific, Mr. David Martin? “*The churches of Christ*” are congregations in different places. There is only one body, God’s Word tells us: “*There is **one body**, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling*” (Ephesians 4:4), and that one body is the **church of Christ**. Listen to what God’s Word says: “*And hath put all things under his feet, and gave **him** [Christ] to be the head over all things **to the church**, <sup>23</sup>Which is **his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*” (Ephesians 1:22-23). Head to which church? To **His church**. Whose church? The **church of Christ**! Not a denomination, but Christ’s body, His church.

Mr. David Martin says: “The church is referred to as the “church of God” eight (8) times in the Bible, but **never** is it called the “church of Christ.” So, according to Mr. David Martin, when CHRIST said to Peter, “**I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH**” he was deceiving Peter and the other apostles, and us, too! Because, if in the Bible it is never mentioned as His church, that is, the church of Christ, then He has no church at all! Please, Mr. David Martin, ask the Lord forgiveness for robbing Him of the most precious body that He [Christ] is its Head, His church! You see what happens to men like Mr. David Martin, when their mentality is denominational?

I close by repeating what I have asked Mr. David Martin, and hope that he gives, not to me, but to our readers, not a specific answer, but a simple one, **just a name**:

“**CHRIST** said, “**I will build MY CHURCH.**”

The simple question is: “**WHOSE CHURCH IT IS?**”

It is not a difficult question that I have asked you, Mr. David Martin. I am sure that our readers already answered it without any difficulty. My answer is: “**THE CHURCH OF CHRIST**”? Am I wrong in my answer, Mr. David Martin? I understand well that you need courage to give the right answer after teaching for many years that false teaching of the Baptist Church, but remember Acts 5:29!

**Mr. David Martin asks:**

10. If the "Church of Christ" claims to worship God only as "authorized" by scripture because they sing only (and do not use instrumental music), then where do they get the "authority" to use **hymnals, pitchpipes, pews, and indoor baptistries** in their worship services? If the answer is that they are "aids to worship," where does the Bible allow for that? **Where is your required authorization?** If a pitchpipe can be an "aid to worship" for the song service in the "Church of Christ," then why can't a piano be an "aid to worship" for Baptists who may need more help in singing?

- **My Answer:**

So, according to Mr. David Martin's reasoning, every one that worship God can worship Him as he pleases! According to Mr. David Martin, God did not made any conditions for us for our worship. Everyone can worship Him the way he pleases or prefers or likes. Is this not what you are saying, Mr. David Martin? God's Word says that: "*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, **but the end thereof are the ways of death***" (Prov. 14:12). And Again we read in Isaiah 55:8-11 – "*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. <sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thou-ghts. <sup>10</sup>For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: <sup>11</sup>So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*"

God tells us what to use for the Lord's Supper. I do not know if Mr. David Martin takes the Lord's Supper or not. I suppose he does, but does he teach that we are at liberty to take cake instead of bread and beer instead of the fruit of the vine for the Lord's Supper because the Bible does not tell us not to use them? Yes, if God's Word gives us a command to *sing* then we have to obey that command.

Mr. David Martin tried to defend the use of insturmental music by mentioning certain things like, hymnals, pitchpipes, etc. When one tries to do this, he is showing that he is on the defense and cannot defend what he believes and teaches. *Singing* is a *kind of music*, is it not, Mr. David Martin? *Instrumental music* is a *kind of music*, is it not Mr. David Martin? God specified the *kind* He wanted: "*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*" (Eph. 5:19). "*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in*

*your hearts to the Lord*” (Col. 3:16). A song book *is not* a kind of music. Here is a song book, what are you doing when you use it? You are *singing*! What is the command? *Sing*! You are *still* not doing anything other than what the command includes. People, like Mr. David Martin sometimes say, “Well, you say do not have a piano. The Bible does not say anything about using a song book.” No. But the Bible says *sing*, and when you use a book you are not doing anything other than what the command includes. But if you play a piano, *you are doing something other than singing*. That is the difference, and please, Mr. David Martin, do not continue to deceive others by these excuses.

Mr. David Martin mentioned the *pitch pipe*, too. Pitch pipe is a way of getting pitch. You cannot sing a song without pitch. It was stated that the difference in the pitch pipe and an instrument is that the pitch pipe knows enough *to be quiet* when the worship begins! The difference between using a mechanical instrument and the pitch pipe is that with the pitch pipe *you are not accompanying the worship with that*. You are only getting the pitch to do what the command itself embraces. This applies to all the other excuses that Mr. David Martin mentioned.

If Mr. David Martin, as a Baptist preacher and pastor, really wants to know about instrumental music in worship, let him read what, Charles Spurgeon, on the great Baptist preachers, if not the greatest, said about it. There are six volumes. Just read his book on his comments on the forty-second Psalm. But if Mr. David Martin does not have this book, I will quote for him and for our readers what Charles Spurgeon says. He says: “David appears to have had a peculiarly tender remembrance of the singing of the pilgrims, and assuredly it is the most delightful part of worship and that which comes nearest the adoration of heaven. What a degradation to supplant the intelligent song of the whole congregation by the theatrical prettinesses of a quartet, the refined niceties of a choir, or the blowing off of wind from inanimate bellows and pipes. We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it.” Charles Spurgeon spoke against instrumental music and he *never had it* in the worship of the Metropolitan Baptist Tabernacle in London England. You know, Mr. David Martin, that Spurgeon is still widely quoted among the Baptists and is one of the most prominent authors in the Baptist literature. Mr. David Martin, do you know what one of the greatest Baptist historians, David Benedict (1859), wrote in his book called *Fifty Years Among the Baptists* about instrumental music in worship? I am sure that you have never heard about this.

You will not find this small book today but if you really want to be sure about the quotation, you have to go to the library at Freed-Hardeman University in Henderson, Tennessee. He said: Staunch old Baptists in former times would have as soon tolerated the Pope of Rome in their pulpits as an organ in their galleries. And yet the instrument has gradually found its way among them and their successors in church management, with nothing like the jars and difficulties which arose of old concerning the bass viol and smaller instruments of music.” But the modern Baptist theologians want it their way and not God’s. But they must remember that: “*There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*” (Prov. 14:12).

John Calvin is one of the great names in theology. John Calvin said, in his commentary on the thirty-third Psalm, “Musical instruments in celebrating the praises of God would be no more suitable than the burning of incense, the lighting of lamps and the restoration of the other shadows of the law. The papist...” Now, who does he mean by papists? He means those who are followers of the Pope, or in other words, Catholics. John Calvin, one of the founders of Presbyterianism, and a man whose theology is followed even to some degree by the Baptists of today, (even though David Martin says that the Baptist Church that he is the pastor of has nothing to do with Calvin’s teachings), said, “The papists,” the Catholics, therefore, have foolishly borrowed this, as well as many other things, from the Jews.” Now, Mr. David Martin, many of what the Baptist Church teaches, and you know this very well, is Calvinism. But I am sure that you, and many of the leaders of the Baptist Church, have no idea of the fact that John Calvin *opposed to the use of instrumental music in the worship*. And many of you who follow Calvin’s theology, no matter how much one says that he does not, are not aware of the fact that Calvin stood in opposition to instrumental music in worship. But this is not all, Mr. David Martin.

I believe that you have heard of Adam Clarke. He is one of the greatest Methodist commentators who ever lived. In his commentary on II Chronicles 29:25, Adam Clarke said, “...the whole spirit, souls, and genius of the Christian religion are against this.” Do you know, Mr. David Martin what he is talking about? Instrumental music. “And those who know the Church of God best, and what constitutes its genuine spiritual state, know that these things have been introduced as a substitute for the life and power of religion; and that where they prevail most, there is least of the power of Christianity. Away with such portentous baubles from the worship of that infinite Spirit who re-

quires his followers to worship him in spirit and in truth, for to no such worship are those instruments friendly.” After commenting on Amos 6:5 saying that he did not believe that David was authorized by God to introduce that multitude of musical instruments into the Divine worship ...” he continues to say, “...And I further believe that the use of such instruments of music in the Christian Church is without the sanction and against the will of God; that they are subversive of the spirit of true devotion, and that they are sinful.” Now listen to Adam Clarke, “I am an old man, and an old minister; and I here declare that I never knew them productive of any good in the worship of God; and have reason to believe that they were productive of much evil. Music, as a science, I esteem and admire: but instruments of music in the house of God I abominate and abhor.”

On page 61 is a copy of what is said about instrumental music in the church taken from the Cyclopaedia of **BIBLICAL** Theological, and Ecclesiastical **LITERATURE**, Vol VI, p. 759. III. *Use of Instruments* For those who cannot read it and do not have access to it, I will quote the exact words. It says:

III. *Use of Instruments in the Church.*—The Greeks as well as the Jews were wont to use instruments as accompaniments in their sacred songs. The converts to Christianity accordingly must have been familiar with this mode of singing; yet it is generally believed that the primitive Christians failed to adopt the use of instrumental music in their religious worship. The word *making melody*, which the apostle uses in Eph. V, 19, has been taken by some critics to indicate that they sang with such accompaniments. The same is supposed by some to be intimated by the golden harps which John, in the Apocalypse, put into the hands of the four-and-twenty elders. But if this be the correct inference, it is strange indeed that neither Ambrose (in *Psa. I, Proef.* p. 740), nor Basil (in *Psa. i*, vol. ii, p. 713), nor Chrysostom (*Psa. xli*, vol. v, p. 131), in the noble encomiums which they severally pronounce upon music, make any mention of instrumental music. Basil, indeed, expressly condemns it as ministering only to the depraved passions of men (*Hom. iv*, vol. i, p. 33), and must have been led to this condemnation because some had gone astray and borrowed this practice from the heathens. Thus it is reported that at Alexandria it was the custom to accompany the singing with the flute, which practice was expressly forbidden by Clement of Alexandria in A.D. 190 as too worldly, but he then instituted in its stead the use of the harp.

In the time of Constantine the Great the Ambrosian chant (q. v.) was introduced, consisting of hymns and psalms sung, it is said, in the



four first keys of the ancient Greek. The tendency of this was to secularize the music of the Church, and to encourage singing by a choir. The general introduction of instrumental music can certainly not be assigned to a date earlier than the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries; (emphasis mine); yea, even Gregory the Great, who towards the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> century added greatly to the existing Church music, absolutely prohibited the use of instruments. Several centuries later the introduction of the organ in sacred service gave a place to instruments as accompaniments for Christian song, and from that time to this they have been freely used with few exceptions. The first organ is believed to have been used in Church service in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. Organs were, however, in use before this in the theatre. They were never regarded with favor in the Eastern Church, and were vehemently opposed in some of the Western church....”



According to the Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature, instrumental music was not introduced into the church until pope Vitalian did so in A.D. 660. Even after this point, the instrument was not used in various places to the point that Thomas Aquinas wrote in 1250, "Our church does not use musical instruments as harps and psalteries to praise God withal that she may not seem to Judaize." The Greek Orthodox Church even today does not use the instrument of music within their worship because it was not part of first century Christian worship. The very term "a cappella" means "sung as in the church."

This is at least some of the historical evidence that we find outside of the Bible in regard to the worship of God with instrumental music. **The first century church simply did not use it.** Now whether men like Mr. David Martin, or churches, like the Baptist Church, and others agree or not, nothing is going to be changed.

In addition to this historical evidence, we have the Scriptures themselves. There are passages in the New Testament which discuss music in the early church **and they all refer to singing.**

These passages are:

1. **Matthew 26:30** – “*And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*”
2. **Mark 14:26** – “*And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*”
3. **Acts 16:25** – “*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*”
4. **1 Corinthians 14:15** – “*What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*”
5. **Ephesians 5:19** – “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*”
6. **Colossians 3:16** – “*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*”
7. **Hebrews 2:12** – “*Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*”
8. **James 5:13** – “*Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*”

Not once does the New Testament refer to playing an instrument such as a harp, piano, organ, pipe, drum or any other stringed instrument.

Why is this so significant? This is significant because according to Romans 10:17, faith comes by hearing the Word of God. If there is no Word of God on the subject, then one's actions cannot be by faith. If one's actions are without faith, then one cannot be pleasing to God for without faith it is impossible to be pleasing to God (Hebrews 11:6). *There is no word from God regarding instrumental music.* Therefore, we cannot, by faith, worship God with instrumental music. We cannot therefore be pleasing to God and worship with instrumental music. Here is the argument in logical form:

1. All actions of faith are actions based upon God's word (Romans 10:17).
2. The action of worshipping with the instrument is an action that is NOT based upon God's word.
3. Therefore the action of worshipping with the instrument is NOT an action of faith.

Allow me to set forth yet another reason for not worshipping with the instrument. We read in Hebrews 9:15 that Jesus is the mediator of a New Covenant. We have this New Covenant revealed to us in the books of Matthew through Revelation. *Not one of those books mentions worshipping God with the literal instrument of music.* So this cannot be something that is part of the New Covenant for which Jesus is mediator. If it is not part of the New Covenant, it is something for which Jesus does not mediate in worship. If Jesus does not mediate for this in worship, then it is vain worship. Stated in logical form the argument is:

1. All actions for which Jesus mediates are actions that are part of the New Covenant.
2. The action of worshipping with instrumental music is an action that is not part of the New Covenant.
3. Therefore the action of worshipping with instrumental music is an action that is not mediated by Jesus.
4. It is sin!

A third argument is based upon the principle of Bible authority. Whatever we do in worship to God must be authorized by God. This is the great principle set forth in Colossians 3:17: "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*" The phrase "in the name of the Lord Jesus" means "by the authority of the Lord Jesus." There is no New Testament authority for instrumental music. Therefore, there is no

authority for it in worship today. Once again we set forth the reasoning in logical form.

1. All divinely approved actions of worship must be actions that are authorized by the Lord Jesus.
2. Instrumental music in worship is an action that is not authorized by the Lord Jesus.
3. Therefore instrumental music in worship is not a divinely approved action of worship.

Our plea rests upon the premise that the New Testament contains everything that we need to know in order to be pleasing unto God (2 Peter 1:3; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17) and that if we want to be truly the Lord's church as it was found in the first century—as guided by the apostles through inspiration of the Holy Spirit—then we are only going to do what they did in worship to God as revealed to us through God's Word today. We cannot worship with instruments of music and do what they did. We cannot be the New Testament church and worship with instruments of music. We give our allegiance, therefore, to Christ and His church, and not to the instrument. If people like Mr. David Martin prefer to give their allegiance to a mechanical instrument, it is up to them to do so, but for us, as Christians of the New Testament church, the church of Christ, we give our allegiance only to Christ.

I hope and pray that Mr. David Martin will be touched in his heart and stop teaching the doctrines of men and begin to teach what the Lord has ordered us to do in order to be pleasing to Him! Remember, Mr. David Martin what Jesus commands us to do: “*Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you,...*” (Matthew 28:20) ***and not*** what George Ebejer or Mr. David Martin, or the Baptist Church or some other denomination teaches!

### **David Martin asks:**

11. The "Church of Christ" teaches that a sinner is forgiven of sin when he is baptized in water by a Campbellite elder. Where does the Bible teach that water baptism is required in order to have one's sins forgiven? Every time the phrase "**for the remission of sins**" occurs it is speaking of **the fact that sins have been forgiven previously!** The Bible plainly teaches that the forgiveness of sins is conditioned upon **repentance of sin and faith in Christ** - never upon water baptism! (Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19; Acts 5:31; Acts 10:43; Acts 20:21; Romans 1:16; Romans 4:5; et.al.) Where does the Bible teach that forgiveness of sin is linked with water baptism? When Christ made the statement in Matthew 26:28, "for

the remission of sins," it had to be **because** they **had been forgiven** all through the Old Testament! Christ shed His blood because God forgave repentant and believing sinners for thousands of years before the Son of God came to "take away" sins and to redeem us and **pay the sin-debt** with His own precious blood. How can one say that "for the remission of sins" means 'in order to obtain' in light of the fact that God never uses the phrase in that sense? In the Old Testament God forgave sin on the basis of a blood sacrifice (Heb. 9:22) - the Old Testament saints had their sins **remitted** (i.e., forgiven) but they were not **redeemed** until Christ came and shed His blood at Calvary. Their sins were **covered** (Romans 4:7; Psalm 32:1), but the sinner was not **cleared** of his guilt (Exodus 34:7) until the Cross (Heb.10:4). Before Calvary, the sins of believers were **pardoned**, but they were not **paid for** (i.e., redeemed) until the crucifixion (see Romans 3:25 and Heb. 9:12-15). When Jesus said, "It is finished," (John 19:30), all sin - past, present and future - was paid for, and the plan of salvation was completed, so that 'whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins' (Acts 10:43). *In Acts 2:38, the people were baptized **because their sins were forgiven** (at Calvary when Jesus said, "Father, forgive them,") and they received the blessing of forgiveness when they repented of their sin of rejecting Christ and **accepted Him as their Saviour and Lord.*** Friend, heaven or hell depends on what you believe about this.

- **My Answer:**

One of the most popular doctrines in the religious world today is the doctrine of *justification by faith alone*. If that doctrine is true, then Acts 2:38 is not true. To say it is not true is to charge God with folly. Jesus saves those **who obey** (Hebrews 5:9). Yes, we are saved by faith but we are saved by an **obedient faith** (James 2:14, 24). Peter, by the Holy Spirit, said *they were to save themselves* (Acts 2:40). Now note that they that received his word were baptized (Acts 2:41). Now, what did they do? "*And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers*" (Acts 2:41). Our duty is revealed in that verse. If we want New Testament Christianity, we must return to the pattern as revealed in this chapter. Jude tells us that *the faith was once for all delivered to the saints* (Jude 3). We pass under judgement when we reject the words of Jesus (John 12:48). Read Matthew 7:21-27 for the words of Jesus.

All life comes from a seed. Each seed produces after its kind. Jesus said that the seed of the kingdom is the word of God. (Luke 8:11). He was talking about the church. That seed never produced anything but a *church of Christ* in the New Testament. Where do we find the seed that

produced the Baptist Church of which Mr. David Martin is a member of?

Let us see what happened the day the church was born. *“Then Peter said unto them, ‘Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.’ And with many other words did he testified and exhort, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this untoward generation.’ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized; and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers”* (Acts 2:38-42).

The believer has the right to **become** a child of God (John 1:11,12) for Jesus is the author of eternal salvation to those **who obey Him** (Heb. 5:9; Gal.5:6). The believer *is not yet a child of God but has the right, power to “become”* a child of God. How he or she becomes a child of God? The answer is in Galatians 3:26-27. Mr. David Martin knows this but sometimes he seems to forget. He quoted this verse, that is, John 1:12, under the title of WHAT WE BELIEVE – THE BIBLE’S PLAN OF SALVATION and under the sub-title of **“You must, by simple faith, ACCEPT CHRIST as your personal Sav-iour.”** It is the **obedient** believer who will be saved. Hence, Jesus said, *“He that believeth **and** is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”* (Mark 16:16). Further, Saul was told, *“And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”* (Acts 22:16). Saul, believed on the road to Damascus, but had his sins washed away **after** he was in the city three days (Acts 9:9).

The Bible is clear about how one receives his forgiveness of sins but some people like to mix their own opinions with God’s Word. Are you ready to *“Repent, **and** be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”* and go home with your sins forgiven? Are you ready to *“Arise, and be baptized, and **wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord”*** and go home with your sins **washed**? Some people, like Mr. David Martin are not ready to obey that simple command! They want to interfere with God’s simple command and add their opinions and interpretations to it! They think that they know better than our beloved Lord what we have to do to be saved! But read Acts 5:29 and do that.

Mr. David Martin asked: “Where does the Bible teach that forgiveness of sin is linked with water baptism?” The answer is: Acts 2:38; 22:16. I know, Mr. David Martin, that you will try to interpret the word “for” (*eis*) as meaning “because of” as you did for the same word in Matthew 26:28 and ridiculed the blood that Jesus shed for the re-mission of sins not only of the Old Testament sinners, but for all. You said that Christ shed His blood on the cross “because they had been forgiven all through the Old Testament.” If they had already been forgiven **before** the shedding of the blood it will be without sense for Christ to shed His blood! But the Scripture that Mr. David Martin quoted shows to the contrary. He quoted Hebrews 9:22 were we read: “And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; **and without shedding of blood is no remission.**” How can it be that Jesus shed His blood **because they had been forgiven** all through the Old Testament if “**without shedding of blood is no remission.**” First there has to be “the shedding of blood” and *then remission*, and not first remission and then the shedding of the blood, Mr. David Martin! The same about forgiveness of sins. First one has to be “buried with Christ and being raised with him in baptism” **and then** he will receive remission of his sins, walk in newness of life (Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-4) and not first receive remission of sins and walk in newness of life, and then be buried and being raised with Christ! Now, you, who is reading this, whom do you think is perverting the gospel of Christ, Mr. David Martin and those who teach the same, or we, as members of the church that we read about in the New Testament, that is, the church of Christ?

David Martin said that “*In Acts 2:38, the people were baptized **because their sins were forgiven** (at Calvary when Jesus said, “Father, forgive them,”) and they **received the blessing of forgiveness** when they **repented** of their sin of rejecting Christ and **accept Him as their Saviour and Lord.**” But, if what Mr. David Martin is saying is true, then one **repents because his sins were already forgiven** because repentance is “for” the remission of sins, (Luke 24:47) the same as baptism is “for” the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and the same as the blood of Christ is “for” the remission of sins.” (Matthew 26:28). Do you believe, Mr. David Martin, that we “repent” **because** we have already received our “remission of our sins”? And you accused us of *perverting the gospel!!!* One has only to look for the word “for” in Young’s Analytical Concordance To The Bible, page 362 for the meaning of the word “for” 26. *with a view to, eis*, and not 27. Because, *διά (acc.) dia*. But for Mr. David Martin there is no need at*



all to be *specific* as he wants me, as a preacher of the church of Christ, to be. For him, his opinion should be enough for his readers or hearers and he pretends that they will accept it blindly! (in fact, some do accept it blindly).

**David Martin asks:**

12. If salvation is **not by works of righteousness which we have done**, and baptism is a work of "righteousness," then **how can water baptism be a part of salvation?** (Titus 3:5; Matt. 3:16) In the Bible, we are **SAVED BY GRACE**, and **grace does not involve human effort or merit - grace is grace and work is work!** (Just read Ephesians 2:8,9 and Romans 11:6.)

• **My Answer:**

Mr. David Martin, if you please, can you be a little more *specific*, like you want the preacher of the church of Christ to be, and respect the intelligence of your readers by telling them **where does the Bible say that “baptism is a work of righteousness”** without adding to your answer any of your opinions? Just quote the Book, chapter and verse or verses, as simple as that! Remember, Mr. David Martin, the simple question that I asked you and you never answered, that is, if you have forgotten, “WHO COMMANDED WATER BAPTISM?” (See page 12.) If you give a Scriptural answer, then you will have a clear answer to all your difficulties in understanding what really the Lord wants us to do to be saved.

You said, “In the Bible, we are **SAVED BY GRACE**, and **grace does not involve human effort or merit - grace is grace and work is work!**” But this is what you were taught and now you are teaching others the same false teaching. Do you remember what the Lord says, “*Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch*” (Matt. 15:14). One has to be very careful when he is teaching or leading others not to be blind because with him he will take the others into the pit!

You said that “grace does not involve human effort or merit – grace is grace and work is work!” Does “grace” involve OBEDIENCE, Mr. David Martin? YES or NO. Then to whom did Jesus become the “Author of eternal salvation” to those who do nothing because they are saved by grace? Listen again to the Word of God what it says to people who are teaching the way that Mr. David Martin is teaching: “*And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him.*” Do we have to obey Him or not, Mr. David Martin? Do you know what “grace” is? I do not think so! I will

tell you. Imagine that you are passing by the seaside and you see a man drowning. You take a lifebouy and throw it to him and shout, “grab the lifbouy, and you will be saved.” That is grace. He is drowning and you do your best to save him. That is what God did for us, “*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” (John 3:16). God threw the life saver, Jesus, for us to save us from our sins. Now, the man who is drowning, has to do something to be saved. He has to make an effort and grab the lifebouy to be saved, but if he wants to commit suicide, then he remains where he is and do nothing and get drowned. That does not mean that if he grabs the lifebouy and is saved he was saved by his own merit, not at all. He was saved by the grace of the man who threw the lifebouy to him. But the man who threw the lifebouy gave him a command to grab it. Jesus gave us commands to obey and one of them is *to be baptized for the remission of sins*. Now, whether you agree or not, that is Christ’s **command**. You obey, and be saved, disobey, you will be condemned! “*He that believeth on the Son hath eternal life; but he that obeyeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him.*” (ASV). The KJV here is not exact, so I quoted from the American Standard Version. One has to believe in AND OBEY the Son, Mr. David Martin! Jesus invites all to: “And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. **And whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.” (Rev. 22:17). Mr. David Martin, do you really understand what “the Spirit and the Bride” are saying? According to what you teach, they are supposed to say that no one can **come** because he can do nothing to take from the water of life freely because if he tries to come he will be making an effort and will be saved, not by grace, but by his own effort! You see how wrong you are? When a persons **accepts and obeys** the Lord’s invitation, *then* he will be saved, if he rejects it, he will be condemned!

Now Mr. David Martin, hear this, too, “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: **if any man hear my voice, and open the door**, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.* <sup>21</sup>*To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.* <sup>22</sup>**He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches**” (Rev. 3:20-22). Dear reader, do you know that even Mr. David Martin himself quoted this verse, that is, Revelation 3:20 under the title of “WHAT WE BELIEVE – THE BIBLE’S PLAN OF SALVATION

and under the sub-title of “**You must, by simple faith, ACCEPT CHRIST as your personal Saviour**”? “If any man hear my voice, **and open the door.**” Mr. David Martin, have you ever opened a door? I am sure that you did this many times. Did the door opened by itself, or did you do a little effort to open it? Jesus telling every person to open his door to Him, but it is us who has to open our door and not Jesus! Jesus invites us but it is up to us if we accept His invitation or not, if we **obey** Him or not. That is why Jesus “...being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation **unto all them that obey him.**” Mr. David Martin knows this Scriptures because he quoted it himself but unfortunately he took no notice of what it really is saying! But the problem with people like Mr. David Martin is that they had accepted that false teaching from their teachers before, and without doing what the Bereans did, searching the Scriptures daily to see whether those things were so” (Acts 17:11), he accepted blindly what his teachers taught him and now he is teaching others the same false teaching. If you *obey* Jesus, and open your door, He will come in, but if you do not obey Him and do not open the door, no matter how much you believe in Him, He will remain outside until **you**, and you alone open your door. It is up to you if He comes in or not! If **you** open and He comes in, **you** will be saved. If **you** will not open the door for Jesus He will remain outside and **you** will be lost. It is up to **you** and **you** alone. Are you ready, dear reader, to make a **small effort** and open the door to Jesus? Listen to Jesus and not to men!

Now, Mr. David Martin, you said that “In the Bible, we are **SAVED BY GRACE**, and **grace does not involve human effort or merit - grace is grace and work is work!**” I will give some Scriptural examples, and you, who is reading this, decide for yourself if Mr. David Martin is right or wrong in what he, and the Baptist Church are teaching about salvation. Please read very carefully the passages quoted.

1. **Numbers 21:4-9** – “<sup>4</sup>*And they journeyed from mount Hor by the way of the Red sea, to compass the land of Edom: and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. <sup>5</sup>And the people spake against God, and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? for there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. <sup>7</sup>Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said unto*

*Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. <sup>9</sup>And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.”*

Here we have the account of the snake in the Old Testament. To us, as Christians, the Old Testament is grand for learning and admonition. (Rom. 15:4; 1 Cor. 10:11). But as a law it died when Jesus died on the cross (Col. 2:14-15). Though it was written by men who spake by the Holy Spirit of God (2 Pet. 1:21), yet we, as Christians, have a new and better law (Heb. 7:22; 9:15). There was no Jesus under the Old Law, and when one seeks righteousness by it today he is fallen away from grace (Gal. 5:4), and proclaims Christ died for nought (Gal. 2:21). God demanded exact obedience to His every word under the Old Covenant. In it are seen high examples of men and women who lived by every Word of God. It is learned from the Old Testament that God blesses man **only when he obeys**. One such example is found in the record of the brass snake.

With a high hand God led Israel out of the bondage of Egypt, and for forty years they wandered in the wilderness. They were on their way to the Promised Land, but in the wilderness they often sinned. (1 Cor. 10). On one occasion they murmured against God because of the “light bread” or manna, He fed them. Because of this rebellion fiery serpents were sent of God to destroy them. At the sight of such horror and death Israel soon plead for mercy. Moses was told of God to make a snake of brass and place it on a standard. Then instruction was given to the children of Israel that all who LOOKED on the brass snake would be healed. Only those who **obeyed** God by **looking** at the snake were healed. *Faith in God would not suffice without obedience.* Israel was forced to **OBEY** as well as **BELIEVE**. There is no faith when one will not do the commands of God (1 John 2:3-5). But according to Mr. David Martin’s teaching, the children of Israel should have been healed **only** by believing in God that He could heal them, because they can do *no effort* to heal them, and by making an effort to go and look at the brasen serpent, because that would mean that they were healed by their own efforts and not by God’s grace! But how wrong is Mr. David Martin’s teaching. He is forgetting what “*obedience*” means!

**This was not snake salvation**. There was no power in the snake on the pole to heal Israel. No sane person would dare say the brass sake healed the Israelites. It was **OBEY** and be **HEALED**, or **DISOBEY**

and DIE. The brass snake was only an instrument God used to test the faith of Israel. Notice now the order of their healing: 1. **Belief**. 2. **Obedience**. 3. **Healing**. But the order that Mr. David Martin was taught by the Baptist Church and now he is teaching it to others is: 1. **Belief**. 2. **Healing**. 3. **Obedience**. But he better reads Acts 5:29!

2. 2 Kings 5:1-14 – *“<sup>1</sup>Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the LORD had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. <sup>2</sup>And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Maaman's wife. <sup>3</sup>And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy. <sup>4</sup>And one went in, and told his lord, saying, Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel. <sup>5</sup>And the king of Syria said, Go to, go, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment. <sup>6</sup>And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying, Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. <sup>7</sup>And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy? wherefore consider, I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me. <sup>8</sup>And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. <sup>9</sup>So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha. <sup>10</sup>And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. <sup>11</sup>But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the LORD his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. <sup>12</sup>Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? may I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage. <sup>13</sup>And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean? <sup>14</sup>Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the*

saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. <sup>15</sup>And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. <sup>16</sup>But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused. <sup>17</sup>And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD. <sup>18</sup>In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing. <sup>19</sup>And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way. <sup>20</sup>But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. <sup>21</sup>So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? <sup>22</sup>And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. <sup>23</sup>And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. <sup>24</sup>And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. <sup>25</sup>But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. <sup>26</sup>And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to re-ceive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? <sup>27</sup>The lep-rosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.”

Here we have the record of a captain whose name is Naaman. He was a captain in the Syrian army, and is described as a noble and

mighty man, and man of valor. But Naaman was a leper, hopeless and undone. He had a loathsome, seemingly incurable disease.

But Naaman found one ray of hope. In his conquest of Israel Naaman had captured a little Jewish maiden. She told Naaman of a great prophet in the land of Israel who could heal him of his dread disease. In great hopes Naaman hurried to the prophet who was Elisha. Elisha sent a servant out to Naaman who told him to go and dip in the river Jordan *seven times* and he would be healed. (In Mr. David Martin's own words of ridicule, under the title of "Water Dog Fights", at the bottom where he says, "Take me to the river!"). Naaman turned away in a rage and prepared to go home. He was disappointed because he THOUGHT (like Mr. David Martin) that the prophet would tell him to do some great thing. God's thoughts are always above the thoughts of man (Isa. 55:8-9). Naaman had a disease of the mind as well as one of the body. Naaman is not the last one who trusted his own thoughts. The conscience of man has often led him to oppose the will of God (Acts 26:10-11; 23:1).

In time Naaman overcame his prejudiced and stubborn will and went to the river Jordan. Yes, Mr. David Martin, he cried, as you have tried to make fun of God's most serious command, that is, baptism, Naaman cried: "TAKE ME TO THE RIVER!" When he dipped *the seventh time*, his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean (2 Kings 5:14). Imagine, a man like Mr. David Martin, commanding him to dip SEVEN TIMES in a river that was far from him! Can you imagine the fun that he will try to make out of that command! Was Naaman cleansed when he was dipped for the *first time*? No! Was Naaman cleansed when he was dipped for the *second time*? No! Was Naaman cleansed when he was dipped for the *third time*? No! Was Naaman cleansed when he was dipped for the *fourth time*? No! Was Naaman cleansed when he was dipped for the *fifth time*? No! Was Naaman cleansed when he was dipped for the *sixth time*? No! Was Naaman cleansed when he was dipped for the *seventh time*? YES!

Mr. David Martin, why are you teaching the false doctrine that you were being taught by the Baptist Church that baptism is not a prerequisite to salvation? If you were present with Naaman, he would have never had the chance to be cleansed of his leprosy because you would have told him that by believing ONLY in God he would be cleansed and that there was no need at all to say: "TAKE ME TO THE RIVER" Jordan to be dipped SEVEN TIMES, not even ONE TIME, because that would mean that you have made *some effort* to go to the river to



be cleansed and only God can cleanse you “without muddying the waters”! For you, Mr. Naaman, there is no effort that you can make so that you will be cleansed. Just believe in God and that is all you can do!” I can imagine, Mr. David Martin, the jokes that you will make out of that command: “**Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean.**” (verse 10). Was not Saul given the same command: “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*” (Acts 22:16)? Mr. David Martin teaches that Saul’s (Paul) sins were washed away **before** he got “washed,” that is, before he went down into the water of baptism! That means, that if you have your hands dirty, and you want them to become clean, they will be clean **before** you take the soap and put them in the water and wash them! Absured!! But how different is God’s Word from Mr. David Martin’s!

The account of Naaman *was not water salvation*. None but the vain would say there was power or magic in the water to cleanse Naaman. The power of God healed Naaman. Dipping **seven** times in the Jordan was not HOW Naaman was cleansed, but **WHEN** he was cleansed. The water was only an instrument God used to test the faith of Naaman. God appointed a time and a place where he would meet Naaman with salvation from his disease. Until Naaman came to that place (Jordan), and to that time (the seventh dipping), he was not cleansed. Notice the order of his healing: 1. **Belief**. 2. **Obedience**. 3. **Cleansing**. But the order that Mr. David Martin was taught by the Baptist Church and now he is teaching it to others is: 1. **Belief**. 2. **Cleansing**. 3. **Obedience**. But one better reads Acts 5:29!

3. **John 9:1-12** – “*And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. <sup>4</sup>I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. <sup>6</sup>When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, <sup>7</sup>And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing. <sup>8</sup>The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged?*

<sup>9</sup>Some said, *This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he.* <sup>10</sup>Therefore said they unto him, *How were thine eyes opened?* <sup>11</sup>He answered and said, *A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight.* <sup>12</sup>Then said they unto him, *Where is he? He said, I know not.*”

The account of the blind man is found in John 9:1-12. Not only was he blind, but he had been blind from his birth. As Jesus passed by, he saw the woeful condition of this man and stopped. After Jesus declared He was the light of the world “*he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, and said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by inter-pretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.*”

The blind man had great faith to do exactly as Jesus said. Faith in God not only believes BUT DOES (James 2:24; Matt. 7:21). ***Faith in God never calls a command of Jesus non-essential or unnecessary*** or makes fun of it as Mr. David Martin tries to make by calling it “water-word,” “if the water pipes broke and the baptistry was bone dry,” etc. Mr. David Martin, ***Until the blind man DID what Jesus told him to do, HE WAS NOT HEALED.*** Jesus told him WHEN he would be healed. Jesus appointed a place **WHERE** he would be heal-ed. When the blind man came to that time and place, he WAS healed.

Mr. David Martin, why are you teaching the false doctrine that you were being taught by the Baptist Church that baptism is not a prerequisite to salvation? If you were present with “the blind man”, he would have never had the chance to see because you would have told him that by believing ONLY in Jesus that he could make him see and that there was no need at all to “**GO** and wash in the pool of Siloan” because that would mean that you have made *some effort* to **GO** to the river to receive your eyesight and only God can heal you! For you, blind man, there is no effort that you can make so that you will be healed “without muddying the waters” of the pool of Siloam. Just believe in Jesus and that is all you can do! I can imagine, Mr. David Martin, again, the jokes that you will make out of that command to “*go, and wash in the pool of Siloam*”? I am sure that you will use the same words that you used to make fun of baptism by telling the blind man to “TAKE ME TO THE POOL” before it would be bone dry and

I will have to wait until the plumber showd up?” It is better for Mr. David Martin to read Acts 8:22!

The blind man’s account *was not clay or water salvation*. Washing in the water did not explain HOW the blind man received his sight but **WHEN**. Jesus used the clay and water as instruments in testing this man’s faith. Notice now the order: 1. **Belief**. 2. **Obedience**. 3. **Healing**. But the order that Mr. David Martin was taught by the Baptist Church and now he is teaching it to others is: 1. **Belief**. 2. **Cleansing**. 3. **Obedience**. But, again, he better reads Acts 5:29!

4. **Mark 16:16** – “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*”

The records of the brass snake, Captain Naaman, and the blind man, illustrate a principle found found in the Gospel of Christ and not in a gospel of men! The people in these records were required to **OBEY** God **before** they were blessed. The Gospel of Christ must be obeyed as well as believed before pardon is granted (Martk 16:16). When one BELIEVES the facts and OBEYS the commands of the Gospel, then he is blessed with salvation, **but not until then**.

Christ now demands of all men belief in Him as the Christ (John 8:24), repentance from past sins (Luke 13:13), confession of His name (Acts 8:36-38), and immersion in water for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). It is as simple as that. No matter what men like Mr. David Martin say, no matter what churches like the Baptist Church (and other denominations) teach, *what the Lord commands is final*. Our Saviour is not faith, repentance, confession, or baptism. **Jesus is the Saviour**. But these are steps that all men must take to return to God. You must remember that “Being made perfect, he (Jesus) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that **obey** him” (Hebrews 5:9). Not “unto all them that **believe** him,” but that **obey Him!**

Baptism is the last act before salvation. It is the borderline to the Kingdom of God. It is the last step before entrance into Christ: “*For as many of you as **have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.***” (Galatians 3:27). *Before* one is baptized, he is OUT OF CHRIST. *After* one is baptized, he is IN CHRIST. Faith in God moves one to be bap-tized, as it moved Israel to look on the brass snake, Naaman to dip seven times in the Jordan, and the blind man to go and wash.

This *is not water salvation*, as men like Mr. David Martin try to deceive their hearers. The water in baptism has no more power to

cleansed from sin that the brass snake did in healing Israel, or the water did in healing Naaman, or the clay and water did in healing the blind man. *The blood of Jesus is the only power to remove sin* (Revelation 1:5). *Baptism is the time that the blood of Jesus washes away the sins of man* (Romans 6:3).

Water baptism is the PLACE God has appointed where man shall be saved. It is the POINT at which man is cleansed of his sins. This is WHEN faith saves. There is no inherent good or evil in the water of baptism. God uses the water of baptism to test the faith of man. It is merely an instrument and not a power in itself.

God declared to man his faith will save him when it moves him to repent of his sins, confess Jesus' name, and be baptized. God could have given men a brass snake to look upon and be healed of their sins today. But he has told man water baptism is the TIME of salvation, not the POWER. Baptism is the:

1. The TIME one enters Christ (Galatians 3:27; Romans 6:3).
2. The TIME one's sins are washed away (Acts 2:38; 22:16).
3. The TIME one is born again (John 3:3-5).
4. The TIME one is raised to the new life (Romans 6:4).
5. The TIME one is added to the Kingdom of God (Acts 2:41, 47).
6. The TIME one is saved (Mark 16:16; 1 Peter 3:21).

This is what I, George Ebejer, as a preacher of the church of Christ believe and teach others to do.

Mr. David Martin, you quoted some Scriptures to try to prove your position, but one has to be very careful when someone quotes Scriptures, as Mr. David Martin did, quoting them *out of* context. It is a very dangerous precedent, to quote a passage in support of our views, when the meaning of the author who wrote it was different from that we attach to it. Our Author is the Holy Spirit and our context is the WHOLE NEW TESTAMENT and not only the verses that Mr. David Martin quoted about salvation by grace. Are we saved by grace? Of course we are, that is what the Bible says, and we believe it and teach it. But what it means, again, to be saved by grace? But does the Bible say nothing more about how one is saved? If you do not yet know, Mr. David Martin what the Bible says about our salvation, about "how, and by what a person is saved, according to God's Word" and not according to the false teachings of men, listen to God's Word telling you some things by what one is saved. This is THE WHOLE CONTEXT:

**We are saved:**

1. By **GRACE** – **Ephesians 2:8** – “**For by grace you have been saved** through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.”
2. By **MERCY** – **Titus 3:5** – “**He saved us** not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but **in virtue of his own MERCY**, by the washing or regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit.”
3. By **THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH** – **2 Thess. 2:10** – And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received **not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.**”
4. By **DOCTRINE** – **1 Timothy 4:16** – “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the **doctrine**; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both **save thyself**, and them that hear thee.”
5. By the **BLOOD OF CHRIST** – (a) **Matthew 26:28** - “For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many **for the forgiveness (remission) of sins.**” (See also Rev. 1:5.)
6. By the **LIFE OF CHRIST** – **Romans 5:10** – “For while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, **shall we be saved by his life.**”
7. By the **GOSPEL** – **Romans 1:16** – “For I am not ashamed of the **gospel: it is the power of God for salvation** to every one who has faith,…” (See also 1 Cor. 15:1-4.)
8. By **ENDURANCE** – **Matthew 10:22** – “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name’s sake: but he that **endureth** to the end **shall be saved**” (see also Rev. 2:10).
9. By **THE WORD** -- **James 1:21** – “Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the **implanted word, which is able to save your souls.**”
10. By **THE SCRIPTURES** – **2 Timothy 3:15** – “And that from a child thou hast know the **holy scriptures, which are able** to make thee wise **unto salvation** through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”
11. By **CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD** – **Romans 10:13** – “For, “every one who call upon the name of the Lord **will be saved.**” (See also Acts 2:21.)
12. By **PREACHING** – (a) **1 Corinthians 1:21** – “For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of **what we preach to save those who believe.**”

13. By **FAITH** – **Ephesians 2:8** – “For by grace you have been **saved through faith**;...”
14. By **BELIEF** – **Mark 16:15-16** – “And he said to them, “God into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He that **believeth** and is baptised **will be saved**; but he **who does not believe** will be condemned.”
15. **BY CONFESSION** – **Romans 10:10** – “For a man believes with his heart and so is justified, **and he confesses with his lips and so is saved.**” (see Acts 8:35-39.)
16. By **REPENTANCE** – (a) **Luke 13:3** – “I tell you, No; but **unless you repent** you will all likewise perish.”
17. By **BAPTISM** – (a) **Mark 16:16** – “He that believeth **and is baptized shall be saved...**”
  - (b) **1 Peter 3:21a** – “**Baptism**, which corresponds, to this, **now saves you**, 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.”
  - (c) **Acts 2:38** – “And Peter said to them, “Repent, **and be baptized** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **for the forgiveness of your sins**;...””
  - (d) **Acts 22:16** – “And now why do you wait? Rise **and be baptized, and wash away your sins**, calling on his name.”
18. By **OBEDIENCE** – (a) **Hebrews 5:9** – “And being made perfect he became the source of eternal salvation **to all who obey him.**”
  - (b) **Romans 6:16-18** – “Do you not know that if you yield yourselves to any one as **obedient slaves**, you are slaves of the **one whom you obey**, either of sin, which leads to death, or **of obedience, which leads to righteousness**? But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become **obedient** from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness.”
  - (c) **Ephesians 5:6** – “Let no one deceive you with empty words, for it is because of these things that the wrath of God comes upon the sons of **disobedience.**”

I am sure that more can be quoted but this should be enough to prove how wrong Mr. David Martin is in his teaching. I hope that Mr. David Martin will not ask us, as preachers of the church of Christ, to be “specific.” Now,

Mr. David Martin, are you ready to continue to teach others, as in fact you are doing, that one is saved “by faith **only**” without the rest? Yes, we are saved by “faith” BUT NOT WITH FAITH ONLY! Yes, we are saved by “baptism” BUT NOT BY BAPTISM ONLY! And so on! If one of the above mentioned is missing, (and some others) then one cannot be saved! Dear reader, do not listen to any man but go directly to Jesus and obey only Him (Acts 5:29; Luke 6:46).

**Mr. David Martin asks:**

13. The "Church of Christ" teaches that "obeying the Gospel" includes being baptized in water in order to be saved. If this is true, then how is it that the converts of Acts 10 were saved by faith before and without water baptism? The Bible says in **Acts 5:32** that only those who obey God may receive the Holy Ghost - so what did those in **Acts 10** do to obey and receive the Holy Ghost and be saved? In the light of **Acts 10:34-48**, **Acts 11:14-18**, and **Acts 15:7-11**, how can anyone honestly believe that water baptism is necessary to salvation? Simon Peter said their hearts were "purified by faith" (**Acts 15:9**) and that we are saved by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ like they were (**Acts 15:11**); that is, **before and without water baptism!** We know that unsaved people do not receive or have the Holy Spirit (John 14:17; Romans 8:9). We know that the Holy Spirit is given only to those who have **believed on Christ** (John 7:39). We know that the Holy Spirit seals the believing sinner the moment he puts his faith and trust in Christ as Savior, before he is ever baptized in water (Ephesians 1:12,13). How does the warped theology of Campbellism explain away these clear passages of Scripture without "muddying the waters" of truth and drowning its members in eternal damnation?

• **My Answer:**

Again, Mr. David Martin is showing how wrong he was taught and now he is teaching falsehood. Blind leading the blind. The Bible teaches, and we teach what the Bible teaches, that one of the things required for salvation and that are mentioned in pages 77-79 is baptism in water (the *one* baptism, Ephesians 4:5) and one has to be baptized in water to be saved. Again he quoted some Scriptures *out of their context*.

In Ephesians 4:5 Paul says clearly that "*there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism.*" Mr. David Martin said, and I quote: “The "Church of Christ" teaches that "obeying the Gospel" includes being baptized in water in order to be saved. If this is true, then how is it that the converts of Acts 10 were saved by faith before and without water baptism? The Bible says in **Acts 5:32** that only those who obey God



may receive the Holy Ghost - so what did those in **Acts 10** do to obey and receive the Holy Ghost and be saved...”

Have you noticed a contradiction here in Mr. David Martin’s words? He knows that “the Bible says in Acts 5:32 that **only those who OBEY God** may receive the Holy ghost.” (Emphasis mine.) When one is being baptized in water, is he or she **OBEYING God** or not? Or they are obeying me, George Ebejer, as a preacher of the church of Christ? (Matthew 16:18). Who commanded water baptism, George Ebejer, Mr. David Martin or Jesus Christ? Who, Mr. David Martin? Will my answer be wrong if I say, JESUS CHRIST COMMANDED WATER BAPTISM! (Now read Heb. 5:9).

Mr. David Martin do not even know, because I am sure that he was not taught that, as a member of the Baptist Church, what was the purpose of the Holy Spirit in Acts 10. Is he ready to let the Holy Spirit tell him **by what** the house of Cornelius were saved? I am ready to accept the Holy Spirit’s answer and no one else’s. The Holy Spirit’s answer to by what the house of Cornelius were saved is this: “Who shall tell thee **words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved**” (Acts 11:14; emphasis mine). Now, Mr. David Martin, do you believe that Cornelius and all his house were saved, according to God’s Word, by the ***words that Peter told them***? Yes, I believe that, but do you, Mr. David Martin? And what words Peter was commanded by the Lord to preach to those who wanted to be saved? (Read Matt-hew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Luke 24:47; Acts 2:38). That is how, the Holy Spirit tells us, how Cornelius and his household were saved, and not as Mr. David Martin is teaching they were saved “by the ***words that Peter told them***.”

That every believing confessing penitent is required to be baptized, or immersed, in water, is manifest from such passages as: Matt. 28:19; Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36, 37; 10:47, 48, etc. This is always to be done, as appears from these Scriptures, in the name of the Lord Jesus; and the candidate is in all cases baptized into (*eis*) the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. It is therefore **one** baptism, and but **one**. And hence Paul argues from this the necessity of there being but one body, animated by one Spirit, and governed by one supreme Head (Eph. 4:3-16). There is then unquestionably **one** baptism in water, and but **one**, in which all penitent believers *put on Christ* (Gal. 3:27). Yes, baptism IS a requirement for your salvation. This is what Jesus said! (Mark 16:16). When one comes "in the newness of life" before or after baptism? (Romans. 6:3-4).

What the Scriptures do not agree with what is said by Mr. David Martin is were he said that "Cornelius and his friends were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues, **proving that they were already born again...before they were baptized in water.**" What verse says that they were saved? *Assumptions* are not God's words! We have to be very careful. When Cornelius and his family were saved and **by what?** I repeat, are we ready to let the Holy Spirit tell us or not? This is what the Holy Spirit says through Luke how and with what they were saved: "Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house **shall be saved.**" (Acts 11:14). Cornelius and his house were saved, according to God's Word, by the "**Words**" that Peter told them, and **not** by the Holy Spirit. This is what Luke says. People say different things but we believe the inspired Luke and not modernists. What were Peter's words that saved Cornelius and his family? You will find them in the Scriptures mentioned above. It is as simple as that.

Now, Mr. David Martin, did any of your former teachers taught you this about the activity of the Holy Spirit in the house of Cornelius? If not, I will. I will try to be specific as I can. The activity of the Holy Spirit in the household of Cornelius presents problems to those who teach, like the Baptist Church, that they were saved before being baptized. An honest and open examination of this incident is absolutely necessary to my *specific* answer to Mr. David Martin's question about this incident. Read carefully Acts 10:–11:18. Before discussing this complex question (for men like Mr. David Martin and others who believe the same) let us establish some things from this section of Scripture.

Major premise: Peter was to speak words whereby Cornelius was to be saved (Act 11:14).

Minor premise: Peter was to speak all things commanded by God (Acts 10:33).

Conclusion: The words whereby he must be saved included all things commanded of God.

Major premise: Peter commanded Cornelius to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:48).

Minor premise: The words whereby he was to be saved included all things commanded of God by Peter.

Conclusion: Baptism in the name of the Lord was included in the words whereby he would be saved.

The relation of Cornelius' baptism to his salvation can be seen by comparison.

Major premise: Peter preached only one gospel (Acts 15:9, 11).

Minor premise: In preaching the gospel in Acts 2 he commanded people (Jews) to be baptized (Acts 2:38).

Conclusion: In preaching the gospel to Cornelius (Gentiles), he would command baptism.

Major premise: Peter commanded people to be baptized in the name of the Lord "unto the remission of sins" (Acts 2:38).

Minor premise: Peter commanded Cornelius to be baptized in the name of the Lord (Acts 10:48).

Conclusion: Peter commanded Cornelius to be baptized for the remission of sins.

Whatever the people in Acts 2:38 were baptized "unto," Cornelius was baptized "unto." If they were baptized "unto" or "because of" the remission of sins, then Cornelius was baptized "because of" remission of sins. If they were baptized "unto" or in order to the remission of sins, then Cornelius was baptized unto the remission of sins.

Major premise: Whatever Peter told the people in Acts 2 to be baptized "unto" he also told them to repent "unto."

Minor premise: Peter did not tell them to repent "unto" (because of) the remission of sins.

Conclusion: He did not tell them to be baptized "unto" (because of) the remission of sins.

Major premise: He told them to repent "unto" (in order to) the remission of their sins.

Minor premise: He told them to be baptized for the same reason he told them to repent.

Conclusion: He told them to be baptized "unto" (in order to) the remission of sins.

Major premise: Peter told people in Acts 2 to be baptized unto the remission of sins.

Minor premise: Peter preached but one gospel (Acts 15:9, 11).

Conclusion: Peter told Cornelius to be baptized "unto" (in order to) the remission of sins.

Briefly reconstructing what occurred at the house of Cornelius we have: An angel appears to this devout man, tells him his prayer is heard, to send to Joppa and fetch Peter, who would *"tell him words*

*whereby he would be saved."* Peter comes and as he begins to preach (Acts 11:15), the Spirit falls upon Cornelius and the other Gentiles present. Peter then **commands them to be baptized in the name of the Lord**. Peter returns to Jerusalem and rehearses to the brethren the conversion of the Gentiles. The brethren rejoice that God has granted the Gentiles repentance unto life also (Acts 10:1--11:18).

The problems that normally come to mind in this section are "When was Cornelius saved?" and "Did he actually receive the Spirit (to indwell) before he was baptized?" This second question is sometimes phrased, "Was Cornelius baptized in the Holy Spirit?"

The answer to the first question is simple. **Cornelius was saved when his sins were removed. His sins were removed when he was baptized.** So he was saved when he was baptized, not before he was baptized. That is what the Scriptures says. This will help us to answer the second question when we come to it.

In preparation of the answer of the second question: "Did Cornelius receive the Spirit before baptism? Was he baptized in the Holy Spirit?" we need to consider the purpose of this miracle of the Spirit coming upon him.

The purpose of something can normally be seen in the use made of it, and this would always be the case with inspired men. What use or uses did Peter make of the coming of the Spirit upon Cornelius and the other Gentiles? Only one use was ever made of this occurrence: *To break down the prejudice of the Jews, to enable them to see that the Gentiles could be baptized (become Christians) without being circumcised (becoming a Jew)*. In Acts 10:47 Peter asked if the Jews present could forbid the Gentiles from being baptized, seeing they had received the Spirit? In Acts 11:16-17, when speaking to the brethren in Jerusalem, Peter again mentions the incident and the brethren rejoice in the Gentile's salvation. Then in Acts 15, when the brethren take the problem of circumcision to the apostles, Peter refers to this incident for the third time in an appeal to the Jewish Christians not to bind circumcision on the Gentile Christians. Since this is the uniform usage made of the incident, we would have to say, "*The Spirit came upon Cornelius before he was baptized to prove once and for all that which Peter had stated in Acts 2:21 and 3 – that all, both Jew and Gentile, could be baptized, have their sin remitted, and receive the Holy Spirit.*" Peter did not regard this miracle as an end in itself, but simply used it as a proof that men could be baptized.

In Acts 11:17 Peter speaks of "withstandig God." What did Peter mean by these words?

1. Did he mean he could not withstand God in visiting the man's house? No! He was already in the man's house when the Spirit fell.
2. Did he mean it would be withstanding God not to preach the gospel to the man? Certainly not! He had be already begun to do this when the Spirit fell.
3. Was it in acknowledging that all men are acceptable to God? No! This he had confessed before the Spirit fell.
4. What is the only thing he said after the Spirit fell? "*Can any forbid the water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Spirit as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ*" (Acts 10:47-48).

From all of this we learn that to have refused to baptize these Gentiles in the name of the Lord would have been to withstand God.

But withstanding God in what? What had God in mind for these men? That they might be saved! and we have already concluded, from the Scriptures, that **the words whereby Cornelius and his house were to be saved included all that God had commanded through Peter.** So Peter, in order not to withstand God, commands them to be baptized **in the name of the Lord** (*they were still out of the name, unsaved*) that God might have His way in this man's life. But God's purpose in this man's life was that he might be saved (Acts 11:14). Therefore, God through Peter commanded them to be baptized.

An objection, would understandably be raised here (as was asked by Mr. David Martin). "If Cornelius received the Spirit before baptism, he must have been saved before baptism!" despite the cries of some who believe the "measure" theory, this objection is valid if Cornelius received the Spirit. It makes no difference "why" he received the Spirit. If he received the Spirit, the following is true:

1. He was sealed unto salvation before he was baptized (Eph. 1:13).
2. He had the earnest (gaurantee) of his inheritance before baptism (Eph. 1:13).
3. He was a son before he was baptized (Galatians 4:6).
4. He was in God and God was in him before he was baptized (1 John 3:24; 4:13).
5. That these four things were not true can be seen in the study of the following plain passages—Acts 2:38; John 1:12; Galatians 3:27-28; Mark 16:15-16; Titus 3:4-6; et al.

The answer to this objection can be easily seen when we understand Luke's use of a certain figure of speech. The words in the Bible are to be understood in their literal meaning unless doing so would involve an absurdity or a contradiction of other plain passages. If we

understand the words which describe Cornelius receiving the Spirit before baptism literally, we are left with four apparent contradictions of other plain passages, as we noted above. These words, then, must be understood to be some figure of speech.

The figure of speech Luke used here seems to be his favourite. A quick count of the book of Acts will reveal over twenty occasions of its use. It is called a metonymy. Webster defines a metonymy: Use of one word for another that it suggests, as the effect for the cause, the cause for the effect, the sign for the thing signified, the container for the thing contained, etc.

Let us notice a few examples of this figure of speech. In Acts 6:7 we read of the Word of God increasing. This does not mean that they ad-ded some to the Word of God, but that the effects or results increased. In Acts 8:28 we find that the eunuch “*read the prophet Isaiah.*” Here the prophet is named when his writings are meant. In Acts 8:14 we read that “Samaria had received the word.” Here the city is named when the people are meant. In Acts 21:21 Paul is accused of teaching the Jews “*to forsake Moses.*” Here Moses is named when the law is meant. In Acts 27:29 we read, “*And fearing lest haply we should be cast ashore on rocky ground, they let go four anchors from the stern, and wished for the day.*” Here the people are named when the ship is meant.

In Acts 2:33 we find Peter naming the gifts of the Spirit when he means the Spirit Himself: “*Being therefore at the right hand of God exalted, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath poured forth, this which ye see and hear.*” Everyone know that Spirit is invisible. What these Jews saw was the apostles speaking in languages they ought not to have known. But what they saw and heard was NOT what Jesus poured forth. He poured forth the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father, and yet Peter told them Jesus poured forth WHAT THEY SAW AND HEARD! Here the gifts are named when the Spirit is meant.

In Acts 8:12-20 the Holy spirit is expressly named four times when the “gifts” are meant. Every Bible student is aware that those who obey the gospel, and are thus made sons, automatically receive the Spirit (Acts 2:38-39; 5:32; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Galatians 4:6). These people had heard the gospel (Acts 8:5-6); they had believed the gospel (Acts 8:12); they had **obeyed** the gospel, being baptized (Acts 8:12). They had, therefore, received the Holy Spirit. Yet Peter and John came down from Jerusalem that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15). After the **apostles** had prayed and **laid their**

**hands** on them, the records says, "and they received the Holy Spirit" (Acts 8:17). The key to the whole section is vers 18: "*Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the **apostles' hands** the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money.*" We can see from this and the former consideration of the Spirit coming to all obedient believers, that this is a *metonymy*. The Spirit is stated when the gifts are meant.

In Acts 19:2-6 the Spirit is named when the gifts are meant. Paul approaches these whom he believes to be Christians (believers) and asks, "*Did ye receive the Holy Spirit when ye believed?*" (Acts 19:2). A very singular question to ask of those whom you believe to be Chris-tians! Unless he meant, "Have you received any gifts of the Spirit since ye believed?" Verse 6 shows this to really be the question Paul was asking: "*And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came upon them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied.*" The Spirit is named when the gifts are meant. Also when Paul asked this question, they replied, "*Nay, we did not so much as hear whether the Holy Spirit was given.*" Paul then asked them concerning their bap-tism, knowing that this was where believers are given the Spirit by God (Acts 2:38-39).

In Acts 4:8 we read of Peter being "*filled with the Holy Spirit.*" In Acts 4:31 the same thing is said of whole company of Christians. This was a qualification of the first deacons in Acts 6, and characterized both Paul and those whom he converted to Christ (Acts 13:9, 52). On these occasions, and all others where this expression is found, a metonymy is being employed. Here the power or influence is meant and not the Spirit Himself. If a man receives the Spirit he has all that can be received. BUT THERE IS A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN OUR HAVING ALL OF THE SPIRIT OR THE SPIRIT HAVING ALL OF US!!!

If a man is not filled by the person of the Spirit which dwells within when he first believes, he never can be, for the Spirit Himself does not grow in size or magnitude. However, his influence and power in our lives and in the lives of the early Christians does and did grow.

So here in Acts 10:47, where it states that Cornelius' household received the Holy Spirit, it means that they *received from the Spirit a gift, especially the gift to speak in tongues* (Cf. 1 Corinthians 12:11). This is exactly what Peter referred to in Acts 11:15-16 when he said that the Gentiles received the "like" gift as the apostles did "at the beginning." Let those who believe in the "measure" theory contend with this passage. The word translated "like" means "equal, in quality or quantity." It is translated "equal" five times. If the "measure" theory



is correct, and Cornelius received the “baptism of the Spirit,” *then he became what the apostles were*. The “like” gift (equal in quantity or quality) which Cornelius received was the speaking in tongues (Acts 10:4-46), the exact same gift that the apostles received “at the beginning” (Acts 2:1-4). So, again, *the Holy Spirit is named when the gifts are really meant*. But the Baptist Church teachers do not teach this to their Bible students and this is seen from Mr. David Martin’s question!

Someone might make on parting objection: “But it says the ‘gift of the Spirit’ was poured out upon Cornelius and his whole household.” This is made to mean by the objector that these Gentiles received the Spirit as a gift from God before they were baptized. The difficulty of this verse (Acts 10:45) is removed immediately by a shallow study of the original language. The verse reads, “*And they of the circumcision that believed were amazed, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gifts of the Holy Spirit.*” Some religious leaders give their opinions and interpretations about certain passages or verses of Scripture instead of really going to study thoroughly that verse or passage. The verb translated “was poured out” is the perfect tense. This tense indicated an action that has been completed but which has also resulted in a continuing and perfect state of being. So this verse really serves as the Spirit’s commentary of Acts 2:17-18, 33, 38-39). The Spirit on the day of Pentecost had been completely poured out for the Gentile as well as the Jew. This had resulted in a state of His being available for all whom God calls (Acts 2:39; 2 Thessalonians 2:14). The Gentiles this day were to receive what God had poured out for them in the past. The tongue-speaking was **God’s sign to the Jews**, who did not believe that the Gentiles could be saved apart from circumcision, that the Gentiles were acceptable to God through **obedience to the gospel** without any recourse to the Law of Moses, and therefore could receive the Spirit without receiving Moses (1 Corinthians 14:22 states that tongues are a sign to those who believe not, and these Jews did not believe that the Gentiles could be baptized without being circumcised.)

So what happened at the house of Cornelius? The first uncircumcised Gentiles became Christians through the preaching of the gospel and their **obedience** to the same. They received from the Spirit the gift of speaking in tongues, **as a sign to the Jews**, before they were baptized. Then, they received from God what He had already provided for them at Pentecost (Acts 2:38, 39). Even Peter had not understood the full significance of the outpouring at Pentecost

until God empowered these Gentiles (Acts 11:15-16 states that this incident “reminded” him of Jesus' promise.)

The Bible makes it very clear **HOW** Cornelius and his household were saved: “*he will tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.” Who is so presumptuous to try to change the Holy Spirit's words? Do you believe, and are you ready to teach, now that you know, Mr. David Martin, what the Holy Spirit says in His Word, that Cornelius and his household were saved by “*the words that Peter told them*” and not according to some opinions of some false teachers?*

I hope that I had been *specific* enough for Mr. David Martin to understand what the Holy Spirit really wants us, as preachers of the church of Christ to preach and teach about what He has told us in His Word.

### CONCLUSION

**James 1:21-26** – “*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. <sup>23</sup>For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: <sup>24</sup>For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. <sup>25</sup>But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. <sup>26</sup>If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.”*

In Christian love,  
George Ebejer,  
Servant of the Lord