

FIVE VIEWS OF MARK 16:16

INTRO: There is a statement of Jesus that is so plain, and yet so controversial that you rarely hear it referred to by denominational preachers, whether it be in their churches or on TV or the radio. When or if they do refer to it, they feel a need to give an explanation that goes against the clear statement of Jesus. Let's take a look at 4 different views of this verse as taught by men, & then contrast those views with what Jesus said, & what His apostles taught & practiced by Divine inspiration.

I. HE WHO BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED "WILL NOT" BE SAVED . 2 separate groups hold this view.

- A. Atheists, agnostics, infidels. They do not believe in God, heaven or hell, or in salvation of any kind.
- B. Jews, Muslims, Hindus, etc. They believe in a supreme being, but they do not believe that salvation is found in Jesus & His gospel.
- C. The truth is that there IS a God, there is a hell, & there is a need for salvation--and that salvation is found ONLY in Christ & His gospel. Rom. 1:16; Acts 4:12

II. HE WHO "DOES NOT BELIEVE" AND "IS NOT BAPTIZED" WILL BE SAVED. This is the belief of Universalists, & of many people in our society who are non-religious or semi-religious.

- A. Such people will prop up their theory with passages dealing with the love of God,

the kindness of God, etc., eg.

Titus 2:11, etc.

B. God's love for mankind is actually the REASON we are given so many warnings about the ultimate result of unpardoned sin. Rom. 6:23; Luke 13:3

C. In fact, Jesus clearly taught that of the billions of people who have lived on earth, relatively few will be saved. Matt. 7:13-14, 21

III. HE WHO "DOES NOT BELIEVE" AND "IS BAPTIZED" WILL BE SAVED. Tho perhaps none would say it this way, this is the practical application of most of those who practice infant "baptism." The theory is that infants are lost because of "inherited sin," & that baptism without repentance, without understanding, without faith, will save them from that lost condition.

A. Biblical baptism is a burial, not a sprinkling. Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3-4.

B. Biblical baptism requires FAITH as a prerequisite.

IV. HE WHO BELIEVES AND "IS NOT BAPTIZED" WILL BE SAVED, This is probably the most common view of all. "Faith only." "Sinner's prayer." "Outward sign of an inward grace."

NOTE: Neither Jesus nor His apostles ever taught salvation by faith only. Matt. 7:21; Heb. 5:9; James 2:24.

V. THE TRUTH JESUS TAUGHT: "HE WHO BELIEVES & IS BAPTIZED WILL BE SAVED."

- A. No explanation is necessary.
- B. Could the apostles understand the first half of the verse?

CONCLUSION: Jesus clearly taught that people who are lost in sin need to hear, believe, & obey His gospel in order to be saved. What part of "and" do people not understand?

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