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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison
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FLAT EARTH RELIGION

In London England there is an organization called “The Flat Earth Society.” They even have their own webpage on the internet. Despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, this organization insists upon holding to a view that is scientifically impossible to prove. They have absolutely no evidence to support their view that the earth is flat but insists that it is. We cannot help but wonder how such an organization can exist in modern society. Why continue to hold to a view that has been proven inaccurate? Why deny the abundant evidence?

Equally hard to understand are those who practice a “Flat Earth Religion.” Yes, there are those who insist upon holding on to religious views which have been proven by overwhelming Biblical evidence to be false. Take the matter of baptism as an example. Many religious people insist that baptism is not necessary to salvation; that baptism follows salvation. Yet the Bible evidence is overwhelming that just the opposite is true.

The Bible teaches: (1) Baptism is “for the remission of sins” (Acts 2:38), therefore one CANNOT be saved before or without being baptized. (2) Our Lord declared, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved...” (Mark 16:16), therefore one CANNOT be saved before or without baptism. (3) The inspired Peter wrote that baptism “doth also now save us” (1 Peter 3:21), therefore one CANNOT be saved before or without baptism. (4) The Bible teaches that one’s sins are washed away in the act of baptism. Ananias told Saul, “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). Since one’s sins are washed away in baptism it follows that one CANNOT be saved before or without baptism. (5) Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:34). One reaches the death of Jesus in baptism (Romans 6:3-4) thus reaching the blood of Jesus. Therefore, one CANNOT be saved before or without being baptized.

Though the “Flat Earth Religionists” may insist otherwise, the evidence that salvation FOLLOWS baptism is overwhelming. Why continue to hold to a view that has been proven inaccurate? Why deny the abundance of evidence from the Bible?

Dear reader, eternity awaits each of us. We have this life to prepare for it. Surely, we can see the need to make sure that we are following God’s Word and not the doctrines and commandments of men (Matthew 15:8-9). We pled with each reader to follow the example of the noble Bereans, who “received the word with all readiness of man and searched the scriptures daily whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

Do you have a Bible question that you would like for us to discuss in this column? Please send your questions to Green Plain church of Christ, 3980 Murray Paris Road, Hazel, KY 42049 or email greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org. Thanks for reading.