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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

ARE YOU HONEST?

When Jesus prayed for His disciples and those who would believe on Him through their word, He asked God the Father, "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth" (John 17:17). Jesus identified the Word of God as "**truth**" that sanctifies. Jesus also taught, "You shall know the **truth**, and **the truth** shall make you free" (John 8:32). Knowing God's truth, which is His Word, is essential obtaining spiritual freedom from sin and its eternal consequences. However, it is one thing to know the truth and quite another to accept and obey that truth.

Let me ask you to consider this question. If you learned from God's Word (the truth) something which contradicted what you have always been taught and believed, what would be your reaction? Would you honestly accept the truth and obey it, or would you continue to hold on to what you have always believed?

Consider this example. Many have been taught and sincerely believe that one is saved by "faith only" before and without the necessity of water baptism. What does the Word of God (the truth) teach about water baptism? Is it necessary to salvation or not? Jesus taught, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16). In this passage does salvation come before or after baptism? Is it belief **minus** baptism equals salvation or belief **plus** baptism equals salvation? What is your honest answer? Which is the truth? Will you accept the truth or hold on to what you have always believed?

Few of those who claim to believe Jesus Christ to be the Son of God would deny that it is His blood that washes away sin (1 Peter 1:18-19; Revelation 1:5). But at what point does one contact the blood of Jesus. Many believe that one contacts the blood of Jesus at some point prior to water baptism. What does God's Word (His truth) teach about the point of contact with the blood? Jesus shed His blood in His death (John 19:34). At what point does one contact the death of Jesus? "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus **were baptized into His death**?" (Romans 6:3). Water baptism places one in contact with the death and thus the shed blood of Jesus which washes away his or her sins. Jesus shed His blood in His death. One is baptized into His death. Therefore, one reaches His shed blood in baptism. Is this a valid argument? What is your honest answer? Will you accept the truth or hold on to what you have always believed? greenplaincoc@gmail.com. Visit gbntv.org.