



REPENTANCE: The Doorway to Salvation

By Tim Waters

At the very core, and at the very heart and foundation of salvation there must be true repentance.

- In order for the water to provide the washing and the cleansing
- In order for sins to be remitted by invoking a name that is above every other name
- In order for His spirit to take residence in our fleshly temple

We all must go through this step called repentance. (Acts 2:38)

In His word we learn that God always has a well-ordered plan:

- ...precept upon precept; line upon line... (Isaiah 28:10)
- The law is a shadow of good things to come – it is our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ. (Hebrews 10:1, Galatians 3:24-25)
- The tabernacle was a figure of things to come. (Hebrews 9:8-9)
- When we study salvation we find there is a pattern, there is a precept, there is an alignment of principles.

The Old Testament tabernacle symbolized salvation by:

- 1) The Brazen Altar (a place of death) [*blood*] (Exodus 27:8)
- 2) The Laver of Water [*water*] (Exodus 30:18)
- 3) The Ark of the Covenant [*Spirit*] (Exodus 25:10-15)

In the New Testament Christ brought us the gospel (I Corinthians 15:1-4):

- 1) Death
- 2) Burial
- 3) Resurrection

No longer is blood of goats and calves required; Hebrews 9:12 says, "...but by his own blood...."
A death was still required for The New Testament gospel.

The Plan of Salvation: (Acts 2:38)

- 1) Repentance
- 2) Baptism
- 3) Holy Ghost

- Still precept upon precept and line upon line.
- First step is still death - No longer is a physical death required, but we now die through repentance.
- The next step Peter gave was to be baptized.
- Romans 6 compares baptism to burial.
- Burial is only necessary after death.
- The only step listed prior to "the burial" is repentance.
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The progression from sin to the salvation always begins with death.

- With the Old Testament tabernacle - Before the priest ever entered the Holy of Holies, there was a death.
- With the Gospel - Before there was ever a resurrection, there was a death.
- With the Plan of Salvation - Before there is the infilling of the Holy Ghost, there must be a death.

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The precept and the pattern is still the same. The first step is death.

The sequence of events that lead to the salvation message:

- 1) Acts 1:3 - Before he ascends, he spends forty days with just his disciples teaching them in the ways of the Kingdom.
- 2) Acts 1:9 - Christ ascends and now, for first time, his plan is ready to go into motion.
- 3) Acts 2:1-4 - Disciples and others are in the upper room and the Holy Ghost falls. They all begin speaking in tongues.
- 4) Acts 2:12-13 - Unbelievers present begin to laugh and mock and accuse them of being drunk.
- 5) Acts 2:14 - Peter (the man with keys) begins to preach.
- 6) Acts 2:37 - They now believe and ask a simple question, "...what shall we do?"

The first word Peter spoke was *repent*.

- The first recorded word of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Jesus Christ, was the word *repent*. (Matthew 3:1-2)
- The first word recorded by Matthew that Jesus spoke at the start of his ministry was *repent*. (Matthew 4:17)
- One of the final directives that Jesus delivered to his disciples prior to his ascension concerned the fact that repentance was about to be preached. (Luke 24:47)

In Acts 2:38, Peter opens the door of salvation by following the pattern shown to us by the tabernacle plan and the Gospel: in order for sins to be remitted, a death is required. Repentance must occur.

NOTES
