

Giving an Answer (I Peter 3:15) *Salvation (Part 2)*

Answer the following FALSE statements:

“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”
(http://www.biblebelievers.com/david_martin/martin_church-christ.html).

1. The church of Christ has no doctrine, but must follow the doctrine of Christ (**I Timothy 3:15; 6:3-5**, and **II Timothy 3:16-17**). The church of Christ is subject to her Head (**Ephesians 5:23-24**). Those teaching must teach sound doctrine (**Titus 2:1 and II John 9-11**).
2. No one believes an elder must do the baptizing. Paul was not an elder (**I Corinthians 7:6-9**; cf. **Titus 1:5-6**), but he baptized (**Acts 18:8**; cf. **I Corinthians 1:14**). In fact, who baptizes someone is not an issue (**I Corinthians 1:10-17**).
3. Baptism for the forgiveness of sins is biblical (**Acts 2:38; 22:16**, and **Colossians 2:12-13**; cf. **Romans 6:3-6**). Would one want to argue you could be saved outside of Christ (**Galatians 3:27**)? “For” or “eis” in **Acts 2:38** is the same preposition translated “unto” in **Romans 10:10**.
4. We are saved by faith, repentance, and a host of other things. For example, the word of God teaches that we are saved by endurance (**Matthew 10:22**), hope (**Romans 8:24**),

the gospel (**Romans 1:16**), grace (**Acts 15:11**), calling on the name of the Lord (**Acts 2:21**; cf. **Acts 22:16**), baptism (**I Peter 3:20-21**), the name of Christ (**Acts 4:10-12**), confession (**Romans 10:10**), repentance (**II Corinthians 7:10**), knowledge of the scriptures (**II Timothy 3:15-17**), and on we could go. Such does not remove the necessity of water baptism.

5. If “remission of sins” occurs after sins have been forgiven and sins were forgiven throughout the Old Testament, why did Christ die (**Colossians 1:13-14**, **Hebrews 10:1-10**, and **Matthew 26:28**; cf. **Hebrews 10:18**)?

6. If sins were forgiven throughout the Old Testament, what did Jesus have to save His people from (**Matthew 1:21** and **Acts 5:30-31**)?

7. To acknowledge that Jesus had to redeem us or pay our “sin-debt” is to acknowledge that sins had not be previously forgiven (**Hebrews 10:16-18**). He does see that remission of sins and forgiveness of sins is one in the same: “the Old Testament saints had their sins remitted (i.e., forgiven)”.

8. In the Old Testament sin was not forgiven, it was pushed forward to the next year (**Leviticus 16:34** and **Hebrews 9:24-28**). The New Covenant brought the true forgiveness of sins (**Hebrews 8:10-13**).

9. He then defeats his argument by saying that sinners were not cleared of their guilt until the cross. That means they weren’t forgiven, even as he cited (**Psalms 32:1** and **Romans 4:7**).

10. To pardon means to forgive (Strong’s number 5545; “to forgive; pardon”. Same Hebrew word is translated forgive [19], forgiven [13], pardon [13], and spare [1]). One notable passage is **Jeremiah 31:34** wherein forgiveness (or pardon) of sins is truly under the New Covenant (**Jeremiah 31:31-34**).

11. Consider the commentary David Martin offered on **John 19:30** and **Acts 10:43**. If true, why did Peter preach repentance to an already forgiven people who realized they were lost, not saved (**Acts 2:36-41**; **3:17-19**). If faith alone brought remission of sins, why do we not see Agrippa as a Christian (**Acts 2:27-28**)? Consider these points with all we already seen.

12. If those in **Acts 2:38** received the blessing of forgiveness when they repented of their sin of rejecting Christ and accepted Him as their Savior and Lord, why didn’t Peter say “Repent every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”? We know why, there is more to being saved (**Mark 16:15-16**, **Acts 8:35-38**, and **Acts 22:16**)!

13. Martin is right about one thing: “heaven or hell depends on what you believe about this” (**Acts 18:8**; cf. **Mark 16:15-16**).