

## **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](http://www.biblebelievers.com/david_martin/martin_church-christ.html)).

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