

>> HELLO AGAIN, AND WELCOME. I'M MIKE HIXSON. SO GLAD TO BE WITH YOU TODAY. WE ARE DOING A COUNTERPOINT PROGRAM AS WE ALWAYS DO EACH WEEK, AND WE APPRECIATE SO MUCH YOU BEING A PART OF OUR VIEWING AUDIENCE. OUR SUBJECT MATTER TODAY, DENOMINATIONALISM VERSUS THE BIBLE. STAY TUNED.

>> B.J., IT'S GOOD TO BE WITH YOU, AS ALWAYS. I APPRECIATE SO MUCH YOUR WILLINGNESS TO BE A PART OF THE PROGRAM, AND WE ALWAYS HAVE GREAT BIBLE DISCUSSIONS, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT TODAY WILL BE THE SAME.

>> IT'S A PLEASURE.

>> B.J., TODAY WE TALK ABOUT DENOMINATIONALISM VERSUS THE BIBLE. AND THE REASON I GUESS WE TITLE IT THAT WAY IS BECAUSE IN SCRIPTURE WE READ NOTHING OF DENOMINATIONALISM AS WE KNOW IT. AND SO FOR MANY VIEWERS, THAT MIGHT BE A SHOCK, BECAUSE IN MAINSTREAM AMERICA, THERE IS LITERALLY A DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH ON EVERY STREET CORNER. SO HOW DO YOU COUNTER THE TENDENCY AMONG SOME TO SAY WELL, YOU KNOW, IT MUST BE OKAY?

>> I WOULD LIKE FOR THE VIEWERS TO IMAGINE, AND THIS WOULD BE WONDERFUL IF IT COULD BE SO, THAT JESUS WERE SITTING HERE IN THIS CHAIR ANSWERING YOUR QUESTION. AND REALLY, HE ALREADY HAS ANSWERED THAT QUESTION THROUGH HIS WORD WHICH WILL JUDGE US IN THE LAST DAY. AND SO I HAVE ACCESS TO THE WORDS OF CHRIST, AS YOU DO AND ALL OF OUR VIEWERS DO. BUT WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY IF YOU ASKED HIM, ARE YOU PLEASED WITH ALL OF THE RELIGIOUS DIVISION THAT CAME ABOUT AFTER YOUR CHURCH WAS ESTABLISHED? JESUS SAW HIS CHURCH ESTABLISHED IN ACTS CHAPTER 2. AND WAS HE PLEASED WITH IT AT THAT TIME? SURELY. IT WAS HIS CHURCH, HE'D BOUGHT WITH HIS OWN BLOOD ACCORDING TO ACTS 20:28. AND SO NOW THE CHURCH BELONGING TO CHRIST IS IN EXISTENCE, AND THEY CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE, ACTS 2:42. WHAT IF THEY'D CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE TO THIS VERY MOMENT IN TIME? WOULD THERE HAVE EVER BEEN THE INTRODUCTION OF A DENOMINATION IF THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE WERE PERPETUALLY FOLLOWED? NO, BECAUSE THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE NEVER DID PRODUCE ANYTHING BUT THE LORD'S CHURCH, BECAUSE A SEED PRODUCES AFTER ITS KIND. THE SEED IS THE WORD. AND THERE IS NO REASON FOR THERE TO BE ALL THESE DIFFERENT CHURCHES TEACHING ALL THESE DIFFERENT THINGS. I CAN GUARANTEE YOU, JESUS WOULD SAY THAT WAS NEVER MY WISH. I DON'T WANT THIS. I WANT PEOPLE TO SPEAK THE SAME THING.

>> B.J., I THINK THAT IS A TREMENDOUS THOUGHT IN LIGHT OF WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT TODAY, BECAUSE GO BACK JUST A MINUTE OR TWO TO JOHN 17. JESUS IS PRAYING IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS, AND HE'S ABOUT TO ULTIMATELY BEAR THE SIN OF THE WORLD; AND IN VERSE 20 JESUS WOULD SAY, AS RECORDED BY JOHN, I DO NOT PRAY FOR THESE ALONE, BUT ALSO FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN ME THROUGH THEIR WORD. NOW, YOU MENTIONED THE APOSTLES' DOCTRINE IN ACTS 2:42. WELL, THAT'S WHAT JESUS IS TALKING ABOUT HERE, THAT UNITY WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY FOLLOWING HIS WORD. AND IN VERSE 21 HE SAID, THAT THEY MAY ALL BE ONE, AS YOU, FATHER, ARE IN ME, AND I IN YOU, THAT THEY ALSO MAY BE ONE IN US, THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT YOU SENT ME. AND THE GLORY WHICH YOU GAVE ME I HAVE GIVEN THEM, THAT THEY MAY BE ONE, JUST AS WE ARE ONE. B.J., THE OTHER DAY I WAS LISTENING TO THE RADIO, AND THERE WAS A VERY POPULAR PREACHER, MANY WOULD KNOW HIS NAME IF I CALLED HIS NAME, BUT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT THE CHURCH, AND HE WAS IN COLOSSIANS CHAPTER 1, AND HE MADE THIS STATEMENT. HE SAID, YOU KNOW, THE LORD NEVER INTENDED FOR

THERE TO BE ALL THESE DIFFERENT CHURCHES AND ALL THESE DIFFERENT DOCTRINES, AND I THOUGHT.

>> AMEN.

>> YOU ARE SO RIGHT. BUT HE NEVER WENT BACK TO IT. HE NEVER REALLY ADDRESSED THAT. AND I WONDERED, OKAY, YOU'RE SO CLOSE. BUT WHAT ABOUT GOING BACK TO THE VERY BEGINNING WHERE IT ALL STARTED? AND I LOVE THE FACT THAT YOU STARTED IN ACTS CHAPTER 2 BECAUSE B.J., REALLY, THAT'S THE BEGINNING POINT OF THE CHURCH.

>> IT'S SO HARD FOR US TO IMAGINE A WORLD WITHOUT DENOMINATIONS ON EVERY STREET CORNER WITH VARIOUS NAMES AND DOCTRINES BECAUSE WE'VE ALL GROWN UP WITH THAT. IN FACT, THERE'S NOT ANYONE WATCHING THIS PROGRAM THAT HAS GROWN UP IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WITHOUT BEING SURROUNDED BY A MULTIPLICITY OF CHURCHES WITH A MULTIPLICITY OF DOCTRINES. BUT OUR EXPERIENCE IS NOT THE SAME AS THE EXPERIENCE OF THE FOLKS ON PENTECOST, BECAUSE TO SHOW YOU THIS, IF WE WERE TO WALK UP TO THEM AND TRY TO CARRY ON JUST AN ORDINARY CONVERSATION AND SAY OF ALL THE DENOMINATIONS THAT EXIST, WHICH ONE IS YOUR FAVORITE, THEY WOULD HAVE LOOKED AT US AND SAID, I'M SORRY, WHICH - I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN, DENOMINATION. NOW, THERE WERE SECTARIAN RELIGIOUS GROUPS OF THEIR DAY, PHARISEES, SADUCEES, ESSENES, ET CETERA; BUT AS FAR AS MODERN-DAY CHURCHES THAT CALLED THEMSELVES WITH DIFFERENT NAMES AND TAUGHT DIFFERENT DOCTRINES, ALL CLAIMING TO BE ATTACHED TO THE HEAD JESUS CHRIST, THEY KNEW NOTHING ABOUT ALL OF THIS MULTIPLICITY OF CHURCHES. AND SO IF THEY COULD BE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH WITHOUT BEING MEMBERS OF DIFFERENT CHURCHES TEACHING DIFFERENT DOCTRINES THEN, WHY CAN'T WE DO THAT TODAY? OR CAN WE?

>> WELL, GREAT QUESTION, B.J. AND THERE'S NO REASON WE CAN'T. AND IF WE GO BACK AND CAMP MAYBE JUST A MOMENT OR TWO IN ACTS CHAPTER 2, YOU REMEMBER PETER, WE HAVE A RECORD OF HIS SERMON. AND THAT SERMON THAT HE PREACHED WAS CONVICTING. THE TEXT SAYS THEY WERE PRICKED IN THEIR HEART. THEY WERE CONVICTED. GOD'S WORD DOES THAT. AND SO AS A RESULT OF BEING CONVICTED BY THE MESSAGE OF THE GOSPEL, THEY ASKED PETER AND THE OTHER APOSTLES, OKAY, MEN AND BRETHERN, WHAT SHALL WE DO? NOW, IN VERSE 38, AND I WANT OUR LISTENERS, OUR VIEWING AUDIENCE TO LISTEN TO WHAT PETER SAID, AND SEE IF WHAT HE SAID IS WHAT YOU HEAR IN THE CHURCH THAT YOU ATTEND OR YOU CLAIM MEMBERSHIP IN. HERE'S WHAT PETER SAID: REPENT, AND LET EVERY ONE OF YOU BE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. NOW, BEAR IN MIND, JESUS HAD PROMISED TO GIVE THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM TO PETER IN MATTHEW 16:19. THAT WOULD ALSO APPLY TO THE APOSTLES, MATTHEW 18:18. SO PETER HAS THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM, THEY ASKED WHAT SHALL WE DO. BUT WHAT HE SAID IS NOT WHAT I HEAR OTHER PEOPLE SAYING TO DO TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD. SO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT DENOMINATIONALISM VERSUS THE BIBLE. SO THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR IS, WHO ARE WE GOING TO BELIEVE, B.J.? AND HOW DO WE COUNTER THIS TRAIN THAT HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR A LONG TIME WHEN PEOPLE ARE ASKED OKAY, WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN, HERE'S WHAT THEY SAY: I WANT EVERYBODY TO BOW YOUR HEADS, SAY THIS PRAYER, AND YOU'LL BE SAVED. THAT'S NOT WHAT PETER SAID.

>> MIKE, I KNOW YOU PREACH REGULARLY. IMAGINE THIS SUNDAY THAT YOU'RE PREACHING, AND YOU'RE PREACHING ON THE CROSS AND WHAT JESUS DID FOR MANKIND. AND LET'S JUST FOR THE SAKE OF ILLUSTRATION SAY THAT SOMEONE IS

SO PRICKED IN THEIR HEART BY YOUR MESSAGE ABOUT JESUS AND HOW HE BLED AND DIED FOR THEM THAT THEY JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE, AND THEY CRY OUT, WHAT SHALL I DO? TELL ME, WHAT SHALL I DO? WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO GIVE THEM A BETTER ANSWER THAN THE ONE IN ACTS 2:38, THE SAME ANSWER THAT PETER GAVE? WHEN THAT VERY SAME THING HAPPENED, THEY CRIED OUT, MEN AND BRETHREN, WHAT SHALL WE DO? AND WHAT ANSWER WERE THEY GIVEN? REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. CAN YOU GIVE A BETTER - IS THERE ANY PREACHER ANYWHERE ON THE PLANET WHO CAN GIVE A BETTER ANSWER THAN THAT ONE?

>> I DON'T KNOW OF A BETTER - AND B.J., WHAT GIVES US THE RIGHT -

>> THERE YOU GO.

>> TO THINK THAT WE CAN CHANGE THE TERMS OF ADMISSION INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD? THE SINNER'S PRAYER, WHICH IS VERY POPULAR, AND MANY HAVE TRIED TO TRACE THE ORIGIN OF THAT PRAYER. SOME WOULD SAY IT GOES BACK TO THE REFORMATION PERIOD, THE EARLY STAGES OF THE REFORMATION, AND IT WAS I GUESS SOMETHING THAT HAD ITS BEGINNING THERE. OTHERS WOULD SAY IT SURFACED IN ABOUT THE 18TH CENTURY. BUT THE BOTTOM LINE IS IT'S NOT OF DIVINE ORIGIN.

>> YOU DON'T FIND IT IN HERE. DO WE READ FOUR CHAPTERS MORE IN ACTS AND SAY ON THIS OCCASION, PETER TOLD THE PEOPLE WHO ASKED HIM WHAT TO DO TO SAY THE SINNER'S PRAYER AND ASK JESUS INTO THEIR HEARTS? YOU AND I HAVE A SCRIPTURE TO SHOW THE ANSWER WE WOULD GIVE IF WE WERE ASKED WHAT SHALL WE DO. WE'D GIVE THE SAME ANSWER AS ACTS 2:38, RIGHT?

>> RIGHT.

>> SO I WANT TO SEE THEIR SCRIPTURE FOR GIVING PEOPLE A DIFFERENT ANSWER THAT SAYS BOW YOUR HEAD AND SAY THIS PRAYER. GIVE US THE SCRIPTURE WHERE ANY INSPIRED PREACHER EVER TOLD ANYONE TO DO THAT, AND WE'LL PUT IT ON THE AIR. WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT FOR 30 MINUTES.

>> YES, WE WILL.

>> IT'S NOT THERE.

>> IT'S NOT. AND YOU KNOW WHAT, B.J.? LET'S GO TO ACTS 9. SAUL OF TARSUS. HE'S ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS, THE LORD APPEARS TO HIM, AND HE ASKS HIM, WHY ARE YOU PERSECUTING ME? AND HE IS TOLD TO GO TO THE CITY, AND IT WILL BE TOLD THEE WHAT THOU MUST DO. ALL RIGHT. THE TEXT TELLS US IN ACTS CHAPTER 9, FOR THREE DAYS HE'S FASTING, HE'S PRAYING. ANANIAS COMES. AND WHEN ANANIAS COMES, WHAT DOES HE SAY TO HIM?

>> HE DOESN'T SAY YOU'VE BEEN DOING A GOOD THING PRAYING LIKE YOU'VE BEEN PRAYING. YOU JUST NEED TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY. LET ME GIVE YOU THE SCRIPT. AND ANANIAS KNEW HE WAS PRAYING, TOO.

>> BECAUSE GOD SAID HE WAS.

>> GOD SAID BEHOLD, HE PRAYETH. SO ANANIAS KNOWS HE'S LOOKING FOR A PRAYING MAN. WHAT'S HE TELL A PRAYING MAN? GET UP. ARISE. AND NOW WHAT?

>> BE BAPTIZED.

>> AND WASH AWAY THY SINS, CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD. QUESTION. DO YOU KNOW MOST PREACHERS TODAY, THEY'RE GOING TO GIVE THAT SAME ANSWER TO SOMEONE? IF MOST PREACHERS TODAY SAW A PRAYING PERSON, WHAT WOULD THEY SAY? NOW LET ME JUST TEACH YOU, LORD JESUS, COME INTO MY HEART. THEY'D GIVE THEM THE SCRIPT THAT IS NOWHERE IN SCRIPTURE.

>> NO.

>> WHY DON'T THEY TELL FOLKS THE SAME THING ANANIAS, AN INSPIRED PREACHER, TOLD SAUL OF TARSUS? WHY NOT?

>> WELL, I THINK THAT IS A FAIR QUESTION, B.J. AND WE GO BACK TO ACTS CHAPTER 2 AGAIN. AND THE APOSTLES ARE SPEAKING AS THE SPIRIT GIVE THEM UTTERANCE, ACTS 2:4. SO WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IS A HEAVEN-SENT MESSAGE. SO IF THEY'RE LEGISLATING WHAT GOD IN HEAVEN WANTED THEM TO SAY, IF WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH HEAVEN'S WISHES, THEN WHAT MAKES ME THINK I CAN TELL SOMEBODY TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT? I CAN'T.

>> NO.

>> AND YOU KNOW WHAT, B.J.? HERE'S THE FRIGHTENING THING. I'M GOING TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT OF WHAT I PREACH AND TEACH. AND NOT ONLY WILL I GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR WHAT I PREACH AND TEACH, BUT I'M GOING TO GIVE AN ACCOUNT FOR WHAT I BELIEVE, OBEY, AND PRACTICE. NOW, THINK ABOUT SOMEBODY WHO HAS PNEUMONIA. LET'S SAY YOU GO TO THE DOCTOR, AND THE DOCTOR SAYS YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU'VE GOT DOUBLE PNEUMONIA, AND I'LL HAVE TO PUT YOU ON SOME ANTIBIOTICS. AND YOU GO TO THE DRUGSTORE, AND AT THE DRUGSTORE THEY SAY YOU KNOW WHAT? I DIDN'T HAVE ANY PENICILLIN TODAY, BUT I'VE GOT SOME SUGAR PILLS. WOULD THERE BE A DIFFERENCE? WELL, IS THERE A DIFFERENCE IN A PSEUDO GOSPEL AND THE GENUINE GOSPEL? YES, THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.

>> RIGHT. IF A DOCTOR WRITES A PRESCRIPTION AND YOU TAKE IT TO THE PHARMACIST, DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT OR DOES EVEN THE PHARMACIST HAVE THE RIGHT, UNLESS A GENERIC SUBSTITUTION IS ALLOWED THAT IS THE SAME THING, JUST CALLED A DIFFERENT THING, HE DOESN'T HAVE A RIGHT TO CHANGE THE MEDICINE TO A MEDICINE OF HIS OWN CHOOSING. YOU DON'T HAVE A RIGHT TO CHANGE IT BECAUSE IT'S BEEN AUTHORIZED BY SOMEONE WITH AUTHORITY. WHO DO WE THINK WE ARE TO COME ALONG AND TAKE GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR HOW TO GET RID OF SINS AND TO CHANGE IT? WE DON'T HAVE THAT AUTHORITY. AND GOD NEVER DID PRESCRIBE FOR ALIEN SINNERS TO SAY A PRAYER AND ASK JESUS TO COME INTO THEIR HEART TO BE SAVED. NOW SOMEONE SAYS WHAT ABOUT SIMON THE SORCERER? WASN'T HE - WELL, SIMON THE SORCERER ACCORDING TO ACTS 8:13 BELIEVED AND WAS BAPTIZED AFTER HE HEARD THE MESSAGE.

>> RIGHT.

>> HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED, MARK 16:16. SO HE'S NOW SAVED. AFTER HE'S SAVED, HE THEN TRIES TO BUY THE GIFT OF GOD WITH MONEY, AND IS THEN TOLD TO REPENT OF HIS WICKEDNESS AND PRAY, BECAUSE A CHILD OF GOD IS TOLD TO PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS BECAUSE HE'S ALREADY A CHILD OF GOD AND HAS ACCESS TO THE FATHER IN THAT WAY. BUT NEVER WAS SIMON THE

SORCERER TOLD TO PRAY TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN, BUT HE WAS TOLD TO PRAY AFTER HE'D BECOME A CHRISTIAN.

>> THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT. AND YOU KNOW, B.J., I THINK THAT'S A GREAT POINT TO MAKE. SOMETIMES PEOPLE WILL FLAG 1 JOHN 1:9 WHEN JOHN SAID, IF WE CONFESS OUR SINS, HE'S FAITHFUL AND JUST TO FORGIVE US OUR SINS, TO CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. WELL, WHAT PEOPLE HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IS JOHN THERE WAS NOT WRITING TO ALIEN SINNERS. HE'S WRITING TO CHRISTIANS. AND SOMETIMES WE MISUNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT IN WHICH THE WRITER IS PENNING HIS WORDS. B.J., IF WE GO BACK TO ACTS CHAPTER 2, THERE ARE A LOT OF FOLKS, AND I'VE READ SOME COMMENTARIES, AS YOU HAVE, THEY'LL READ ACTS CHAPTER 2 AND THEY'LL EMPHASIZE REPENTANCE, AND THEN THEY'LL WAVE BAPTISM OFF AND SAY WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT? YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE BAPTIZED TO BE SAVED. WELL, IF I READ WHAT PETER SAID, BAPTISM IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. OKAY. THE WORLD SAYS YOU'RE SAVED FIRST, AND THEN YOU'RE BAPTIZED. BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT THE RECORD SAYS. SO AGAIN, GOING BACK TO SCRIPTURE, IF WE'RE GOING TO BE TRUE TO GOD, WHY NOT JUST SAY IT LIKE THE BIBLE SAYS IT?

>> A VERY WELL-KNOWN PREACHER SOME YEARS AGO, MANY YEARS AGO NOW, WAS PREACHING AT THIS HUGE EVENT AND WAS QUOTING ACTS 2:38, BUT LEAVING BAPTISM OUT OF IT. AND ONE OF THE PEOPLE NEAR THE FRONT ROW PUT THE WORD BAPTISM IN THERE AND SAID IT OUT LOUD AND TRIED TO NOTE THAT IT SAYS REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED. THIS PERSON DID NOT MEAN ANYTHING BY IT EXCEPT TO JUST SUPPLY THAT INFORMATION. AND THE PREACHER ACCUSED THEM OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST AND RIDICULED THEM, AND THEY SAID WELL, I'D NEVER HEARD OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST, BUT IF THAT'S THE CHURCH THAT TEACHES THE WHOLE VERSE, LET ME FIND IT. THEY WENT AND FOUND THE CHURCH THAT YOU READ ABOUT IN ACTS 2, THEY OBEYED THE GOSPEL. AND SO THIS PREACHER BY RIDICULING THEM FOR EMPHASIZING THE SAME THING PETER SAID IN ACTS 2:38 ACTUALLY LED THEM TO THE CHURCH THAT THE LORD WAS ADDING PEOPLE TO ON THAT DAY OF PENTECOST IN ACTS CHAPTER 2.

>> AND YOU KNOW, B.J., MARK 16:16 IS A PARALLEL PASSAGE TO ACTS 2:38. AND WE COULD ASK THE QUESTION, FOR PEOPLE WHO SAY BAPTISM DOESN'T SAVE, WELL, JESUS SAID, HE THAT BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED. DID JESUS KNOW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT?

>> RIGHT. I MEAN, AND TELL ME WHERE JESUS - IN FACT, SAUL SAW THE LORD ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS. IF JESUS JUST WANTS US TO SAY PLEASE FORGIVE ME, I'LL MAKE YOU MY LORD, SAUL OF TARSUS HAD THAT MINDSET OF BEING WILLING TO MAKE JESUS HIS LORD ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS, AND YET JESUS SAID NO, YOU ARISE AND GO TO THE CITY, AND THERE YOU WILL BE TOLD WHAT YOU MUST DO.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> SO WE WAIT. WHAT IS THE ONLY THING SAUL OF TARSUS WAS TOLD TO DO? WHATEVER IT IS, WE KNOW HE MUST DO IT. IT'S ESSENTIAL. THE ONLY THING HE WAS TOLD TO DO IS NOT TO PRAY, BUT TO GET UP FROM HIS PRAYER, TO BE BAPTIZED TO WASH AWAY HIS SINS. NOW, MUST HE DO THAT OR NOT? IF THE BIBLE SAYS HE MUST DO IT, THEN WHO ARE WE TO SAY NO, HE DOESN'T HAVE TO?

>> YOU KNOW, B.J., WHAT ABOUT THIS? IF YOU LOOK AT THE BOOK OF ACTS, AND THE BOOK OF ACTS IS REALLY A BLUEPRINT FOR THE BIRTH, INFANCY, AND GROWTH OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH. THERE ARE SOME TEN CASES OF CONVERSION RECORDED IN ACTS. IN EVERY SINGLE CASE BEGINNING IN JERUSALEM ALL THE WAY TO EPHESUS, BAPTISM IS EXPLICITLY STATED.

>> RIGHT.

>> EVERY SINGLE TIME. SO WHAT DOES THAT SAY TO THE RELIGIOUS WORLD TODAY IN LIGHT OF HOW MANY PEOPLE IGNORE THE PLAIN TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE?

>> YOU AND I WOULD NOT SAY HEY, WAIT A MINUTE, THIS CASE OF CONVERSION DOESN'T EXPLICITLY MENTION FAITH, SO FAITH MUST NOT BE NECESSARY. THAT WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE FOR YOU AND ME, BECAUSE WITHOUT FAITH, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO PLEASE GOD. WE KNOW IT HAS TO BE A COMPONENT. NOT EVERY CONVERSION CASE MENTIONS REPENTANCE, AND YET WE KNOW ALL MEN EVERYWHERE MUST REPENT, ACTS 17:30. AND SO IT'S ALMOST AS IF THE HOLY SPIRIT ANTICIPATED THE OBJECTIONS TO BAPTISM AND WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY SINGLE CASE MENTIONED IT AS THE MOMENT THAT SOMEONE AS A PENITENT, CONFESSING BELIEVER HAD THEIR SINS WASHED AWAY NOT BY THE WATER, ANYMORE THAN NAAMAN HAD HIS LEPROSY WASHED AWAY BY MAGIC WATER. BUT DID NAAMAN HAVE TO DIP IN THE RIVER JORDAN TO GET CLEANSED OF HIS LEPROSY?

>> YES, HE DID.

>> YES. BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT GOD SAID TO DO. AND IF YOU DO WHAT GOD SAYS, YOU'LL RECEIVE WHAT HE OFFERS. WHAT DOES GOD OFFER THEM ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST? REMISSION OF SINS IF THEY WOULD REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED. DO WE NEED TO DO WHAT GOD SAYS OR NOT?

>> WELL, ABSOLUTELY. AND YOU KNOW, B.J., IN ACTS 2:21, PETER THERE QUOTES JOEL. AND JOEL SAID, WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED. IN ACTS 22:16, SAUL OF TARSUS WAS TOLD TO BE BAPTIZED, WASH AWAY HIS SINS, CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD. NOW, SOME PEOPLE HAVE THIS IDEA THAT ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS CALL OUT TO THE LORD, AND HE'LL SAVE THEM. BUT PETER TELLS THEM, ANANIAS TELLS SAUL EXACTLY WHAT TO DO OR EXACTLY HOW TO CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD.

>> I LOVE WHEN YOU TAKE ACTS 2:21 AND ACTS 2:38 AND PUT THEM SIDE BY SIDE, LOOK AT THE HARMONY. WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED; REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. IS FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS EQUAL TO SHALL BE SAVED?

>> YES.

>> THOSE ARE THE SAME THINGS. SO IF FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS EQUALS SHALL BE SAVED, WHOSOEVER SHALL CALL ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED IS EQUAL TO REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. THAT'S HOW YOU CALL. THE BIBLE'S ITS OWN BEST INTERPRETER OF WHAT IT MEANS.

>> THE PSALMIST SAID, THE SUM OF YOUR WORD IS TRUTH. SOMETIMES I THINK IT'S NECESSARY FOR US TO STEP BACK AND PUT ALL THE COMPONENTS TOGETHER TO

GET THE FULL PICTURE. B.J., AS WE TALK ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST IN LIGHT OF WHAT DENOMINATIONS OFTEN TEACH, THE BIBLE ALSO SAYS THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH DAILY THOSE WHO WERE BEING SAVED. SO HOW DO YOU COUNTER THIS MOVEMENT AMONG SOME THAT SAY, WELL, YOU KNOW, YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH TO GO TO HEAVEN? I MEAN, THIS WHOLE IDENTIFYING WITH THE CHURCH, THAT'S REALLY NOT THAT NECESSARY.

>> ESSENTIALLY WHAT THEY'RE SAYING IS THE LORD ADDED PEOPLE TO SOMETHING THEY DIDN'T NEED TO BE ADDED TO. THE LORD ADDED TO THE CHURCH. DID HE NEED TO ADD THEM TO THE CHURCH? IT WAS A SIMULTANEOUS EVENT. THE MOMENT THEY WERE SAVED IS THE SAME MOMENT HE ADDED THEM TO THE CHURCH. NOW, THE CHURCH WAS BOUGHT BY THE BLOOD OF CHRIST. WAS THAT NOT ESSENTIAL? IS THE BLOOD OF CHRIST SOMEHOW UNESSENTIAL? WHY WOULD JESUS PURCHASE WITH HIS OWN LIFE AND BLOOD SOMETHING THAT WAS NOT EVEN REALLY NEEDED? IT IS NEEDED. AND HERE'S ANOTHER THING. TRY TO INSERT ANY DENOMINATIONAL NAME INTO ACTS 2:47. AND THE LORD ADDED TO THE BLANK CHURCH, AND THE LORD ADDED TO THIS CHURCH. THEN TAKE THAT BACK TO THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND ASK THOSE PEOPLE BAPTIZED WHO'D BEEN ADDED TO THAT CHURCH IF THEY CALLED THEMSELVES MEMBERS OF THE BLANK CHURCH. THEY WOULD LOOK AT YOU AND SAY I NEVER HEARD OF THAT CHURCH. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH. I'M A MEMBER OF THE CHURCH THAT BELONGS TO CHRIST, THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST. BUT YOU TRY TO PUT A DENOMINATIONAL NAME INTO ACTS 2:47 AND PRESENT THAT TO THE 3,000 ON PENTECOST WHO WERE BAPTIZED AND THOSE WHO WERE BAPTIZED IN THE DAYS THEREAFTER, AND THEY'RE GOING TO BE LOOKING AT YOU WITH QUIZZICAL EXPRESSIONS AS IF TO SAY I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE CHURCH YOU CLAIM I WAS ADDED TO. I'M JUST ADDED TO THE LORD'S CHURCH. IF THAT WAS GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM, IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU AND ME TODAY.

>> YES, SIR. AND B.J., PAUL TAUGHT THAT BY ONE SPIRIT WE WERE ALL BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY. AND THIS WHOLE IDEA THAT THERE ARE MANY CHURCHES, AND THAT IDEA IS FLOATED, AND YOU JUST JOIN OR AFFILIATE WITH THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE, OR YOU DON'T HAVE TO AFFILIATE WITH ANY, THAT'S FOREIGN TO SCRIPTURE.

>> IT IS, BECAUSE THERE'S ONE HEAD AND ONE BODY. AND THIS IDEA THAT YOU HAVE ONE HEAD CONNECTED TO ALL THESE DIFFERENT BODIES, THAT IS NOT TRUE. AND JESUS SAID, I AM THE VINE AND YE ARE THE BRANCHES. NOW, THINK ABOUT THIS. SOME PEOPLE SAY OH, YEAH, I'M THE VINE, BUT THE BRANCHES ARE ALL THE DIFFERENT DENOMINATIONS. DO YOU KNOW OF A VINE THAT PRODUCES A MULTIPLICITY OF DIFFERENT FRUITS? OR DOES A GRAPE VINE ALWAYS PRODUCE GRAPES? IT DOESN'T PRODUCE WATERMELONS. AND WATERMELON VINES DON'T PRODUCE GRAPES. AND SO SEED PRODUCES AFTER ITS KIND. THAT'S STILL TRUE TODAY. WHATEVER THE SEED OF THE KINGDOM, THE WORD OF GOD, MADE THEM WHEN IT WAS PREACHED AND HEDED AND OBEYED IS THE SAME THING IT WILL MAKE PEOPLE TODAY. IT'S JUST MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST.

>> EXACTLY RIGHT, B.J. AND SO ONCE A PERSON BECOMES A CHILD OF GOD, THEY'VE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST, THEY CONTACT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, THEN THE EXHORTATION IS TO BE FAITHFUL.

>> YEAH.

>> AND YET I HEAR SOME PEOPLE IN THE RELIGIOUS WORLD, MATTER OF FACT, I READ JUST THE OTHER DAY A GUY SAYING ONCE SAVED/ALWAYS SAVED. WELL, HOW DO YOU COUNTER THAT? BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD TODAY, THEY HAVE THIS IDEA THAT ONCE THEY IDENTIFY WITH THE LORD, THEY CAN NEVER LOSE THEIR SALVATION.

>> YOU KNOW, THERE ARE 2,500 PASSAGES PLUS THAT YOU COULD ACTUALLY GO TO, BUT I'M JUST GOING TO FOR TIME'S SAKE GO TO A COUPLE THAT COME TO MIND. BECAUSE ONE OF THE GREATEST CHRISTIANS THAT EVER LIVED, NO DOUBT, I THINK EVERYONE WOULD ADMIT IF THEY HAVE ANY RELIGIOUS KNOWLEDGE AT ALL THAT ONE OF THE GREATEST CHRISTIANS, IF NOT THE GREATEST CHRISTIAN TO EVER LIVE WAS THE APOSTLE PAUL. OKAY. NOW, IF HE'S ONCE SAVED/ALWAYS SAVED, CERTAINLY HE OUGHT TO KNOW IT. AND SO PAUL, WHAT DO YOU SAY ABOUT YOURSELF? HE SAYS IN 1 CORINTHIANS 9:27, I KEEP UNDER MY BODY AND BRING IT INTO SUBJECTION. PAUL, WHY ARE YOU SO DILIGENT TO PRACTICE SELF-CONTROL? LEST BY ANY MEANS WHEN I PREACH TO OTHERS, WATCH THIS, I MYSELF SHOULD BE REJECTED OR BE A CASTAWAY. WAIT A MINUTE. PAUL, ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU COULD BE REJECTED BY GOD? YES. AND THAT'S ONE REASON WHY I'M SO CAREFUL TO LIVE MY LIFE ACCORDING TO THE RULES HE GAVE, BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO BE REJECTED BY GOD. AND THE SECOND EXAMPLE, THE APOSTLE PETER WROTE ABOUT. AND THIS IS UNGETTAROUNDABLE. HE TALKS ABOUT THOSE - 2 PETER 2:20 AND FOLLOWING, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THEM NEVER TO HAVE KNOWN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THAN AFTER HAVING KNOWN IT. AND THAT'S IMPORTANT TO BRING UP, MIKE, BECAUSE SOMETIMES PEOPLE WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THIS WILL SAY, WELL, IF SOMEONE GOES OUT AND LIVES WICKEDLY, THAT MEANS THEY WERE NEVER REALLY SAVED TO BEGIN WITH. NO. PETER SAYS IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR THEM NOT TO HAVE KNOWN IT THAN AFTER THEY HAVE KNOWN IT TO TURN FROM THAT RIGHTEOUSNESS. BECAUSE HE LIKENS THAT TO A SOW THAT WAS WASHED. HE DIDN'T JUST PRETEND TO BE WASHED. HE WAS ACTUALLY WASHED. RETURNING TO WALLOW IN THE MIRE AND A DOG RETURNING TO ITS OWN VOMIT. THOSE ARE NOT PLEASANT CONCEPTS TO CONTEMPLATE; BUT WHEN WE BECOME CLEANSED AND THEN WE GO BACK INTO THE MUCK AND THE MIRE OF SIN, THEN WE HAVE OUR LAST STATE HE SAYS IS WORSE THAN THE FIRST. WHAT WAS OUR FIRST STATE? LOST.

>> RIGHT.

>> OUR LAST STATE IS NOW WORSE THAN LOST? THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE ONCE SAVED/ALWAYS SAVED TO ME. THAT MEANS YOU'RE LOST AND YOU KNOW YOU WERE ONCE SAVED. AND HOW HAUNTING THAT WILL BE TO KNOW THAT YOU HAD THOSE BLESSINGS AND THREW THEM ALL AWAY BY GOING BACK TO SIN.

>> YEAH, B.J. AND IF YOU LOOK AT THAT PASSAGE, AS YOU SAID A MOMENT AGO, THERE'S NO WAY TO GET AROUND IT. THAT IS WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS. SO WE'RE TALKING ABOUT WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS VERSUS DENOMINATIONALISM. SO B.J., WE'VE GOT TWO MINUTES AND A HALF LEFT. WHAT WOULD A PERSON NEED TO DO - LET'S JUST SAY SOMEBODY'S WATCHING RIGHT NOW AND THEY SAY YOU KNOW WHAT? WHAT I DID TO BECOME A CHRISTIAN IN MY MIND ISN'T WHAT I READ THE BIBLE SAYS TO DO TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD, A CHRISTIAN. SO WHAT WOULD THEY NEED TO DO TO BE RIGHT?

>> HERE IS THE GREAT, GREAT NEWS. EVERYONE WATCHING CAN BE A MEMBER OF THE SAME EXACT CHURCH THE PEOPLE ON PENTECOST WERE ADDED TO BY THE LORD.



IF I DO THE SAME THING THEY DID, I'LL BE THE SAME THING THEY WERE. WHAT DID THEY DO? THEY HEARD A MESSAGE ABOUT JESUS BEING THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, HOW HE WAS CRUCIFIED AND SLAIN. AND YET AFTER HE WAS BURIED, HE AROSE. AND THEN HE ASCENDED, AND HE'S AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER. HE'S LORD AND CHRIST. AND HEARING THAT MADE THE PEOPLE ON PENTECOST SAY, WHAT SHALL WE DO? THEY WERE PRICKED IN THEIR HEART. MAYBE SOMEONE TODAY IS PRICKED IN THEIR HEART, AND THEY WANT TO KNOW WHAT TO DO. I'M NOT GOING TO TELL THEM ANYTHING DIFFERENT THAN PETER TOLD THEM. I WOULD SAY REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT MEN STILL NEED TO DO TODAY. OKAY. LET'S SAY SOMEONE WATCHING THIS PROGRAM WERE TO LISTEN TO THIS AND GO OUT AND DO THAT. GUESS WHAT CHURCH THE LORD WOULD ADD THEM TO IF THEY DID?

>> HIS CHURCH.

>> THE LORD WOULD ADD THEM TO THE SAME CHURCH HE ADDED THOSE PEOPLE ON PENTECOST TO. AND THEN WHAT'S THEIR JOB? MOST OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE EPISTLES WRITTEN TO THOSE WHO'D BECOME CHRISTIANS TO SAY HERE'S HOW YOUR MASTER WANTS YOU TO BEHAVE. AND SO I PICK UP MY BIBLE AND I STUDY IT AND I LEARN HOW GOD WANTS ME TO LIVE, AND I SET MY AFFECTION ON THINGS ABOVE WHERE CHRIST IS, AND I LIVE FOR HIM AND I LAY UP TREASURES IN HEAVEN, AND I TRY TO GET PEOPLE TO BECOME MEMBERS OF THE BLOOD-BOUGHT CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST. THERE'S NO BETTER INSTITUTION TO BE A MEMBER OF. YOU KNOW WHAT? ON MY DEATHBED, I MAY NOT BE A MEMBER OF SOME BILLIONAIRES' CLUB, BUT IF I'M A MEMBER OF THE BODY OF CHRIST, I'M THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

>> AMEN.

>> THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN COMPETE WITH THE RICHES THAT ARE FOUND IN CHRIST JESUS.

>> AND YOU KNOW WHAT, B.J.? IF PEOPLE WILL JUST TAKE THE SCRIPTURES, FOLLOW WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS TO BECOME A CHILD OF GOD, AND THEN STAY WITH THAT BOOK, THE PSALMIST SAID, YOUR WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET, A LIGHT UNTO MY PATHWAY. THIS BOOK CAN GET US HOME.

>> AMEN.

>> AND THAT'S WHERE WE WANT TO GO. B.J., AS ALWAYS, SO GOOD TO BE WITH YOU.

>> YOU, TOO.

>> AND THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH US TODAY. WE HOPE TO SEE YOU BACK HERE AGAIN NEXT WEEK. UNTIL THEN, GOD BLESS.