

# WHAT IS YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BIBLE?

By Keith Greer

How many of us become very frustrated when discussing some spiritual matter with another person, and we come up against the proverbial brick wall.

Imagine this scenario. Your neighbor brings up the subject of baptism; he is a member of the Baptist church. He says, "I believe baptism is a good work, but not necessary for my salvation." What is your reply? "Let us read some scriptures together".

"He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." {Mark 16:16}

"For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ." {Galatians 3:27}

"Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." {Romans 6:4}

"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." {Acts 2:38}

"There is also an antitype which now saves us; baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh. But the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ." {1 Peter 3:21}

What does your neighbor think now? "That is just your interpretation of the Bible. I respect your belief, but it really all comes out at the same place, pleasing God." Say what? Does this sound familiar? What is the problem? Is it too difficult to understand? No, the problem is one's attitude towards the Bible. Let me allow the book to explain.

"As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue." {2 Peter 1:3}

"And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." {John 8:32}

"Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth." (John 17:17)

"Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls." {James 1: 21}

"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it." {Isaiah 55:11}

The decision to believe the truthfulness of each of these passages is up to the individual.

When one disagrees with the Bible, their difference is with God, not me! If a person believes these passages, we will understand baptism alike. Simple, right?

Before you get to feeling too sorry for your neighbor, consider yourself. Do you believe the Bible is the word of God? Do you accept all that it teaches? Really?

"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works," {Hebrews 10:24} Do you attend all the services of the church? If not, how are you "provoking" your brethren? Sunday AM—72—Sunday PM—38—difference of 34...Seems to be a trend on "holiday" Sundays.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." {Matthew 6:33} Yet, ballgames, friends, family, work, almost anything, can keep me from finding time for God. Last gospel meeting the visitor's attendance was better than from our own members.

"You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself! ... {Romans 2:21} Think about it! \*\*\*