

COMMENTS ON THE OBJECTION TO ASKING JESUS TO COME INTO OUR HEARTS AS BEING UNBIBLICAL

1) "ASK JESUS into your HEART". We have spoken about this before, so I won't spend too long on it here. The fact of the matter is that NOBODY in the Bible ever "asked Jesus in" or 'gave their heart to the Lord' to become a Christian. There is NOT ONE instance of this ever happening. There are no people in the Book of Acts repeating a "Sinner's prayer" to get saved. -Nothing like it. This doctrine simply DOES NOT EXIST in the Bible.

While 'Asking Jesus to come into the heart ' is not mentioned as such, it is not wrong to ask people ( especially the young )to do that so long as it is made clear that they must forsake sin to enter the new life in Christ. Did not the Lord Himself say:

" Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him and he with me .'

Revelation 3 : 20

What, do you think, is the door in this verse ?

Who ( not what ! ) is going to enter ?

2) So what did people do in Acts?

Well, every time they wanted to become a Christian, they deeply REPENTED, they were BAPTIZED IN WATER, and also BAPTIZED in the HOLY SPIRIT. These three things were always done straight away - and were regarded as ESSENTIAL - not just "optional extras".

By all means let us look at Acts so see whether they do all this everytime:

Now a certain woman named Lydia heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of Thyatira, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul.

And when she and her household were baptised, she begged us, saying, " If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

Acts 16 : 14, 15

There is no specific mention of the Gospel being preached, no mention of deep ( even simple ) repentance, nor baptism in the Spirit. The Bible assumes that we are to understand that Lydia ( and her household ) heard the Gospel, understood, repented and received Christ into their hearts. Note her plea for Paul to exercise his judgement that she was indeed faithful to the Lord who had opened her heart. Every soul winner must be wise enough to exercise judgement in a particular situation. Someone close to the kingdom need little more than the sinner's prayer, which is Biblically sound.

***"Father, I know that I have broken your laws and my sins have separated me from you. I am truly sorry, and now I want to turn away from my past sinful life toward you. Please forgive me, and help me avoid sinning again. I believe that your son, Jesus Christ died for my sins, was resurrected from the dead, is alive, and hears my prayer. I invite Jesus to become the Lord of my life, to rule and***

***reign in my heart from this day forward. Please send your Holy Spirit to help me obey You, and to do Your will for the rest of my life. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen."***

3) We are short-changing the entire church today with a doctrine that simply CANNOT BE FOUND in Scripture. Merely "ASKING JESUS IN" is totally unscriptural. It is time to go back to getting people saved the BIBLE WAY. (-See Acts 2:38, Acts 8:12-17, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 19:1-6, Acts 22:16, etc. See also my in-depth article at- <http://www.revivalschool.com> <<http://www.revivalschool.com/>> ).

My humble opinion is that these dear brethren are short-changing themselves in not recognising the breadth of God's mercies in the way He deals with people. No doubt, they are zealous for the purity of doctrine. Could it be that in their anxiety to be pure they are overlooking a commonsensical interpretation of the Bible and are selective in their choice of verses that suit a particular outlook ?

Lastly, but by no means least, the Scripture is very clear that being a Christian is to have Christ in one's heart.

Does not Paul say that God has revealed this mystery to the saints, namely, " Christ in you, the hope of glory " Colossians 1 : 27 ?

And did not our Lord teach ever so clearly:

If anyone loves me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him John 14 : 23 ?

These words mean that we can truly and confidently ask Jesus to come and make His home in our hearts. Which brings us back to the verse from Revelation 3 : 20.

In Christ,

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