

THE ETERNITY FRATERNITY

By Captain Ron Knott

The Japanese Airline Captain navigated his DC-8 jetliner safely and efficiently across the Pacific Ocean toward a scheduled landing at San Francisco International Airport. The 5000 mile flight was faultless en-route. The passengers were excited about arriving at their designation and friends and family were anxiously awaiting their arrival at the gate. The descent into SFO started at about 125 nautical miles from the airport. The final approach appeared normal in all aspects although the airport was engulfed with heavy fog. This is no problem for landing if proper procedures are followed for an instrument approach. However, it was discovered later, by data taken from the flight recorder and the cockpit voice recorder, that an incorrect frequency had been dialed into the instrument landing system (ILS). This caused an erroneous report on the instruments in the cockpit and directed the DC-8 to land in San Francisco Bay 500 feet short of the runway. All on board were lost. This tragic accident could have been prevented if only proper procedures had been followed all the way to touchdown. This one-minute error in supervision caused all to be lost. The Captain completed 99.9% of his flight flawlessly yet an oversight just 500 feet from the airport destroyed all.

Dan Brown tried to defame Jesus in his publishing of the "Da Vinci Code." Ron Howard added more error to the story in the movie. Unfortunately, many so-called Christian organizations are diminishing the deity of Jesus as well. They have changed from 'fact to fiction' on Bible doctrines that are contrary to God's plan for man. It is time for us to proclaim to the world who Jesus Christ really is.

Dan Brown himself said one of his goals was for people to start talking about spiritual things. He said, "My book is fiction and not fact." Mr. Brown thanks for opening the dialogue about Jesus Christ. I take the challenge to start talking about spiritual things by defending my Savior with 'fact and not fiction.'

So if Brown's book is fiction, what then is the TRUTH? Again I go to the Holy Scriptures for TRUTH! I will not waste time challenging Brown's false statements, but will in fact present Jesus Christ as recorded in the Holy Word. The inspired Word of God was recorded by 32 scribes as they were moved on by the Holy Spirit. It was documented by kings, priest, physicians, farmers and fisherman over a period of 1500 years and there are no contradictions within its pages. Hundreds of prophetic recordings in the Bible have come to pass. The Bible is man's rules and regulations, by-laws and edicts, the greatest contract ever written, and our eternal insurance policy. We just need to read the fine print before the fire to insure that we have obeyed the terms of the policy. The following was taken from Moody Press, 1963. Please note the extreme odds of the Holy Bible being factual.

Defendant agrees that each and every, all and singular, the allegations contained in the Plaintiffs' Original Petition that He, the Defendants claim to be Almighty God, in many manifestations and expressions. However, Defendant denies the charge that He, in fact, was blasphemy as recorded in Mark 2:5-7 of the New Testament. Jesus said...*Son, thy sins be forgiven thee...Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only?* In addition Defendant denies that he in fact did not breach the first command that states, ...*thy shall have no other gods before me...* when He claimed to be the Almighty as recorded in Revelation of the New Testament. *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty...I am Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end, the first and the last...*

In addition, your Honor, I submit the following recorded facts that will prove without a doubt that Jesus Christ is in fact the Creator of all things in Heaven and on the earth, and is the Savior of man's soul. And to the Jury of this Court I submit that the specifics of this Man are a mystery and will only be revealed to a few.

INTERROGATIVE ANSWERS

Who is the Creator of heaven and earth?

Colossians 1:16-17, *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him. (17) And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

John 1:1-14, *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. (4) In him was life, and the life was the light of men...(10) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

The mystery of the Deity is hidden from some

Luke 10:21-22, *In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. (22) All things are delivered to me of my Father: and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father; and who the Father is, but the Son, and he to whom the Son will reveal him.*

Matthew 11:25-27, *At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ²⁷All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the on*

except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

1 Timothy 3:16, *And without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

2 Corinthians 4:4, *In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*

The mystery of the Godhead can be understood

Romans 1:20, *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse;*

Colossians 2:9, *For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*

The Prophet, Isaiah, said that Jesus was the Father

Isaiah 9:6, *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

How many gods does God know? How many gods should we know?

Isaiah 43:10-11, *Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. (11) I, even I, am the Lord: and beside me there is no savior.*

Isaiah 44:8, *Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God: I know not any.*

Isaiah 45:21-23, *Tell ye, and bring them near: yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the Lord? and there is no God else beside me: a just God and a Savior: there is none beside me. (22) Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. (23) I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.*

Who raised Jesus from the dead?

John 10:17, *Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again.*

John 2:19, *Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.*

Does the Bible say there is but one Lord?

Isaiah 45:18, *For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited; I am the Lord; and there is none else.*

1 John 5:7, *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one.*

Zechariah 14:9, *And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.*

Malachi 2:10, *Have we not all one father? Hath not one God created us?*

Matthew 23:9, *And call no man father upon the earth; for one is your Father, which is in heaven.*

Mark 12:29, *And Jesus answered him, the first of all the commandments is, Hear O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord.*

John 10:30, *I and my Father are one.*

Romans 3:30, *Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and the un-circumcision through faith.*

1 Corinthians 8:4, *...and there is none other God but one.*

Galatians 3:20, *Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.*

Ephesians 4:5-6, *One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) One God and father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

James 2:19, *Thou believest that there is one God: thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

John 8:19, *If ye believe not that I AM HE, ye shall die in your sins.*

Your honor, and ladies and gentlemen of the Jury, I present the following declarations as recorded in the Old & New Testament concerning the deity of the "Defendant" Jesus Christ.

Old Testament:

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Please note that the Son is the Mighty God and Everlasting Father!

New Testament:

Matthew 1:21 *And she shall bring forth a son, thou shall call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. (23)...God with us.*

The Son and the Father are the same, God with us!

Old Testament:

Isaiah 40:3 *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of our the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. **John knew that Jesus was “Our God.”***

New Testament:

John 1:23 *He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord... **John the Baptist knew that Jesus was “The Lord.”***

God does not know another God!

Old Testament:

Isaiah 44:6-8 *...I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God. (8)...Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.*

New Testament:

Revelation 1:8 (The Revelation of Jesus Christ.) *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega the beginning and the end, the first and the last.*

God said he was the first and the last, Jesus said he was the first and the last. This is not a contradiction if you understand that One God was manifested in three different forms as: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. But only One God. I am a father, son and have a spirit but I am only one person!

Old Testament:

Isaiah 45:8-12-18 *...I the Lord have created it. (12) ...I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens,... (18) For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it ...**Here the Bible declares that God himself formed the earth.***

New Testament:

John 1:3-10 *All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. (10) He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

The Bible declares that Jesus made everything yet the world knew him not. And many still do not know Him as the Almighty today.

Old Testament:

Isaiah 45:21-23 *...That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall sware.*

New Testament:

Romans 14:11 *For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.*

Philippians 2:10 *That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in earth, and things under the earth; (11) And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...*

The religious leaders crucified Christ because he did things that only God could do. He forgave sin and accepted worship. They said he was a blasphemer. The religious leaders of today are trying to take away his power and position by making him only the Son of God and the second person in the Trinity. By the way the word "Trinity" is not in the Bible and is a man-made term to water-down the deity of our Lord.

Acts 4:12 says, *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

**JESUS CHRIST IS NOT A CLONE OF GOD THE FATHER.
HE IS NOT A DUPLICATE DEITY.
HE IS NOT JEHOVAH, JR.
HE IS THE ALMIGHTY GOD!**

Your Honor; and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, I rest my case with the above stated facts that Jesus Christ is the Savior, Creator, and soon coming King of Kings and Lord of Lords as recorded in His Book!

PART II

It is now my pleasure to review God's contract written for all mankind, to guarantee eternal employment with Him as kings and priest.

What is meant by "Born Again"

Born again, of the water and of the Spirit, as the Lord commands in John 3:5 *Jesus answered, verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.* I challenge you, by the word of God, to make sure you have obeyed His simple commands for eternal life.

Thousands are added to God's "Book of Life" daily. If your name is not recorded on those sacred pages, or if you are not sure, you can be confident that it will be by following God's simple plan. We should ask ourselves the following question. If I died today am I positive that I would be with the Lord for all eternity? Unfortunately many will not make that heavenly scene because their navigation was in error. The Heavenly Flight Book gives precise directions which are very easy to follow.

The Lord challenges us to, *Search the scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life* (John 5:39). Matthew 7:21-23 says, *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: **depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*** This is a very serious statement by the Lord. Some people are going to find out on the “**last day**” that they have not obeyed the commandments of God. They landed short! They may have been hoodwinked by the commandments of man. The “**last day**” will be too late to correct that misconception.

Man has distorted the execution of Bible based baptism which is a vital part of the “Born Again” requirement. Many so-called Christian organizations command undocumented edicts about this soul saving decree. It is appalling how the Word of God, on this subject, has been completely distorted by mankind. Jesus came to save man from sin and religion. In fact it was the very religious who called for his death. Thousands were put to death during the Renaissance period for being re-baptized when they discovered error in the Roman Church system (see “Renaissance Reformation” by William Estep). Misrepresentation continues today as I have indicated later on in this report.

Most folks consider themselves as human beings with a brief spiritual experience. However, we are in fact spiritual beings with a very short human abode. We will be spiritual beings forever. Our human experience will expire very quickly compared to our spiritual longevity. Nevertheless, what we accomplish during our human experience will determine our eternal spiritual address. It is very important that we get our values and direction correct during the human portion of our earthly venture so we can reap everlasting euphoria.

I must confess that I was once drinking and stinking, lying and dying, fussing and cursing, smoking and choking, and many other acts of immorality that will go unmentioned at this time. Yet, one act of faith, in the process of baptism, washed away all of the above and more forever. No, I did not deserve that purification, but it was a free gift from God Himself. And it is for you as well.

Friends please know that this is not a judgment call on my part, but a letter of love. That is my love of God’s Word and my love of my fellowman and his eternal dwelling place. Please prayerfully consider the below Bible Doctrines and commands. I was taught error on this essential statute of salvation. I am so grateful that someone cared enough to share this critical truth with me. I now share it with you for your consideration. Thousands of years from now you will still be thankful that you applied this correction to your eternal flight plan. My hope and prayer is that we all make a safe landing at the **Eternity Fraternity.**

THE BAPTISM CHALLENGE

If you have not been baptized then please have that accomplished immediately.

If you were **baptized as an infant please act on faith and be re-baptized** (Infants have no faith and baptism is an act of personal faith in Christ.)
If you were baptized by **sprinkling** please be re-baptized the Bible way.
If you were not baptized in **Jesus Name** please consider obeying that command.
If you do not know how you were baptized, then please, for you soul's sake, be baptized again, this time in Jesus Name, **just to be absolutely sure.**

IS BAPTISM NECESSARY?

Jesus said, *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved....*(Mark 16:16).

FOR the remission of sins (Acts 2:38).

To **SAVE** us (1Peter 3:21, Acts 2:40, Mark 16:16).

To **WASH AWAY OUR SINS** (Acts 22:16).

To be **REBORN** to **new life** (John 3:5, Romans 6:3-6).

To **CLOTHE** ourselves with Christ (Gal 3:26-27).

So that GOD will **RAISE** us **from death** (Colossians 2:12, Romans 6:3-6).

As a **REQUIREMENT** to enter heaven (John 3:5, Mark 16:16).

To put us **INTO CHRIST** (Galatians 3:26-27, 1Corinthians 12:13).

To die with Christ guaranteeing eternal life with Him (Romans 6:3-6).

BAPTISM IS...?

Baptism is our **public confession**, declared on earth, and proclaimed in heaven, that we died with Christ and are raised as He was unto a new birth; BORN AGAIN!

Baptism is **how** we get into Christ.

Baptism is always accompanied by **faith** and **repentance**.

Baptism is God's terms of surrender.

Baptism is our signal to God we have accepted Christ's gospel.

Baptism is the external washing with water and the internal washing away of sin.

Baptism is "Calling on the name of the Lord."

Baptism is being unified with Christ in his death, burial and resurrection.

Baptism is "Clothing" ourselves with Christ.

Baptism is "Accepting" Christ (on *His* terms, not ours).

Baptism is **when** our sins are remitted.

Baptism is **how** and when we come into contact with the blood of Christ.

Baptism is **when** we are reborn.

Baptism is an act of faith.

Baptism is **how** we enter the kingdom of God.

Baptism is **when** we exchange our life for His.

Baptism is **when** we die to ourselves and come alive in Christ.

Baptism is the washing of regeneration, and renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is the starting gun of a race of a new life.

Baptism is proclaiming in Christ the resurrection of the dead.

Baptism is when we stop living for ourselves and start living for Jesus.

When Jesus died on the cross, He, who had no sin, paid the death penalty for **our** sins. Through baptism we are united, or joined with Christ in paying the death penalty for sin. We are baptized into His death, into the death penalty for sin. We,

who are unable to return from death because we have sin, are joined to Christ and since Christ is sinless and was victorious over death, we, now being united with Him through baptism, are made victorious being united with Christ in His resurrection (Romans 6:3-6).

Romans 6:3-5

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His death, and therefore into His burial and resurrection as well. Through **baptism** we are **united** with Christ in His **death, burial and resurrection**; and being united with Him in this manner we rise to new life, leaving behind our old self and rising to a new. Baptism is when our old self dies and our new life begins. **Through baptism** we die to ourselves and exchange our life for His. Baptism is also when we come into contact with the blood of Christ. **It is in baptism that we “die” with Christ...and so we therefore will live with Him as well.**

In other words, what happens in baptism is that God takes **Christ’s** death, burial, and resurrection and transposes it onto **our** life. Our old, sinful self becomes **united** with Christ in His crucifixion and death **through baptism** and we rise from the water to **new life**.

Galatians 3:26-27

For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

Faith in Christ is a prerequisite to baptism. Faith (along with repentance) is an essential ingredient in the conversion process. It must be understood that Jesus Christ died for our sins and He raised himself from the dead (John 2:19). In being baptized into Christ we “*clothe*” ourselves with Him or “*put on Christ*”. When God looks at us he does not see our sins, but Christ’s righteousness instead.

In Genesis 3:21 after Adam and Eve sinned (and they had died spiritually), God provided them with animal skins to clothe them and give them a covering. This required the shedding of the blood of animals. In the Old Testament a sacrifice for sin always required the shedding of blood. Under the New Covenant the shedding of blood was still required, but this time it was to be by the sinless Lamb of God that Jesus Himself shed on the cross. And just as God clothed Adam and Eve He now clothes us, but now it is with Christ Jesus.

Some say, “But baptism is a ‘work’ and we are not saved by works...we are saved by faith alone.”

First, we must consider what the definition of a “work” is that we are using. If one defines baptism a “work” then we must also label **believing** a “work”. We must also label **repenting** a “work”. **Believing** and **repenting** are both things we **must DO** as a prerequisite to salvation. They are both factors that require human **action**. Baptism is merely the last part of that equation. The “work” for baptism was completed by Christ at His Death. Mankind only accepts the completed work of Christ, by faith. The pastor only repeats the Name of the One who died for you while you are being placed in the watery grave! James tells us he will show us his faith by what he *does*.

Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself (James 2:17).

It must be remembered that although baptism is something we must *do* (like believing and repenting), baptism is an **act of faith**, not a “work.” It must also be noted that the one at “work” when we are baptized is **God**, not us. He is the one who takes away our sins! See Colossians 2:12. Just as we must report to the hospital before a surgeon can operate on us, so too, we must “report to God” in the waters of baptism, submitting to God and claiming His promise so that our sins will be remitted. **Just as it is the surgeon who is the one who is at work when we are operated on, so too, it is God who is the one who is at work when we undergo baptism.**

Baptism is a manifestation of faith. **It is not Man who is at work in baptism; it is God.** Baptism is not a “work of *righteousness*.” **On the contrary, if anything, it should be considered a work of UN-righteousness.** We are baptized because we are corrupt, unrighteous and spiritually **dead** in sin. This is why we are **buried** with HIM into DEATH as explained in Romans 6. **It is the DEAD that are buried, not the living. Note: We are buried with Him and not them. Some baptize in the name of the Father, Son, & Holy Ghost. The Father did not die. The Holy Ghost did not die. Jesus died and we are buried with Him symbolic of His death.**

But God has always measured faith by our actions, as James 2:17-26 tells us:
Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead in itself. But, someone will say, “You have faith, and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one. You do well. Even the demons believe -- and shudder. But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith apart from works is dead? ...For as the body without a spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

There are many who teach one is saved by “faith alone,” but there is only one place in the bible where the phrase “faith alone” is found (James 2:24). And it states very plainly we are **NOT saved by faith alone!!!**

“You see that a person is justified by what he does and not by faith alone.”

The devils believe as stated in James 2:19. ***Thou believest there is one God...the devils also believes and trembles.*** Are the devils saved because they believe? Of course not!

Even Martin Luther, who coined the phrase "salvation by faith only," understood that salvation by grace, through faith, did not preclude the necessity of baptism:

In answer to the question, What does Baptism accomplish? What good is it? Luther replied in his Small Catechism, ***“It gives the forgiveness of sins, redeems from death and the Devil, gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as God's words and promises declare.”***

It must always be emphasized that baptism is an act in which **God** works, not man. This happens **through faith** in God's Word. In baptism we, the dead, are joined with Christ into His death. Then, being united with Him together in this death and burial, just as Christ arose from the dead, so too, **He** brings us up, still unified as one, with Him to resurrected life.

Colossians 2:12

...and you were buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Aren't we saved by Faith Alone was asked and answered in 1840.

Martin Luther himself was often misunderstood and misrepresented by critics of baptism who oppose the very Word of God they claim to uphold. Yet he clarified in his writings exactly what he taught:

“For to be baptized in the name of God is to be baptized not by men, but by God Himself. Therefore although it is performed by human hands, **it is nevertheless truly God's own work...**”

Submerging beneath the surface of water and getting wet is not a “work”. The “work” that is done in baptism is done by God, not by man. The “work” that is done in baptism is the removal of the stain of sin from a person's soul for all eternity. The “work” that is done in baptism is the transference of a sinner from the kingdom of *darkness* to the kingdom of *light*. The “work” that is done in baptism is God taking a *dead* man and making him *alive*! The “work” that is done in baptism is God taking the *unrighteous* and declaring them *righteous*. The “work” that is done in baptism is God clothing the sinner with the righteousness of Jesus. The “work” that is done in baptism is God uniting together man's spirit with Christ's. And this could NEVER, EVER be accomplished by man's work! The miracle that happens in baptism is not anything man does. It is something God Himself does through the office of Jesus Christ. Again, baptism is not our work, it is *His*!

In speaking about marriage, Jesus said, ***“So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man separate”*** (Matthew 19:6).

The participants of the wedding ceremony are no more credited with joining the man and the woman together than are participants of baptism. God does not give such credit to mere servants for this union, but reserves that honor for Himself--and rightly so. Jesus sees marriage as something **God** does, not man. And so it is with baptism.

Just as the Lord tells us it is **God Himself** who is the one who does the joining in marriage, **so too**, baptism is viewed in the **same way**. It is **God** who joins us with Christ in baptism. This is a divine miracle and something infinitely beyond human capability. In a similar sense, as a man and a woman becoming united, we become united with Christ in the waters of baptism. **And in all of this, it is **God** who does the joining.** It is God who makes the two become one. **That is how it is not only in marriage, but in baptism as well.** Just as marriage is a spiritual union between a man and a woman that God gets the credit for, so too, baptism is a spiritual union (between Christ and man) that God gets the credit for because it is God who does the joining. And Christ frequently portrayed Himself as the Bridegroom. In the book of Revelation, the church is portrayed as the bride. This indeed, is profound.

THE POWER OF GOD’S BLOOD!

Before the death of Jesus man could not get rid of his sins no matter what he did. Hebrews 10:4 *For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.* The blood of God is the only thing that would take away sin. We found out earlier who God is. That is the reason Jesus said in Matthew 26:28 *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Whose blood?* Acts 20:28 *Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. Whose blood?*

God came in the flesh and shed his blood for the sins of all mankind. We know this to be Jesus Christ. We need to apply His blood to our sin soaked souls to remit our transgressions. His blood is the only thing that will remit sin. The blood of animals could not remit sin.

Jesus Christ shed His blood for past, present and future sins of the world. A good example of this is in the story of the rich man and the poor man (Lazarus) in Luke 16. Luke 16:22 *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;* We see in this true story that the great man of God, Abraham, was placed in holding in the center of the earth after he died. Abraham could not be in the place of God because his sins had not been remitted by the blood of animals. God will not look upon sin! The sins of man were only pushed ahead each year awaiting the arrival of the Messiah. Please note: 1 Peter 3:18-19 *For Christ also hath once suffered for sins,*

the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: {19} By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; (Abraham and others). Jesus took power over death, hell and the grave when he died. **We note that when Jesus shed His blood the graves popped open and many saints who were dead were raised from the dead and went into the city and appeared to many (Matthew 27: 50-53).** WOW! What a mighty God we serve! Not only did He raise Himself from the dead he raised many others as well. His shed blood on the cross remitted sin for all generations.

REPENTANCE & REMISSION

Jesus said that, ***Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name . . . beginning at Jerusalem*** (Luke 24:47). Peter obeyed that command in Acts 2:38. **Repent** (step one)...be **baptized** in Jesus' name for the **remission** of sins (step two)... and ye shall receive the gift of the **Holy Ghost** (step three).

I am sure that Abraham repented many times. In fact he was a patriot of God but his sins had not been remitted, only forgiven. Let me give you an example. Suppose you spilled a cup of coffee on my new carpet. I am sure you would say, "Oh, I am very sorry, please forgive me." I would forgive you, but the stain would still be in the carpet. It must be washed away somehow or remitted, or else it will leave a bad spot on the carpet. You have repented and I have forgiven you, but the blemish is still there. Not only must we repent as directed in Acts 2:38, we must also be baptized in the Name of Jesus (applying His blood) since this is the only detergent on earth that will remit sin.

This is why we must be baptized in Jesus' name for the **remission of sins**. Thus applying His precious blood to our tarnished life and removing our sin forever. The Bible says we must be without spot or wrinkle to enter in. Only the blood of Jesus Christ can remit sin. Not the blood of bulls or goats, but the blood of God. That's the reason Jesus shed His blood and died. When we are baptized in Jesus' name we are applying His blood to our lives. Read Acts 20:28 please.

WHAT ABOUT THE THIEF ON THE CROSS?

Some will ask, "Well, what about the thief on the cross? He wasn't baptized and Jesus very clearly told him he would be in paradise. Doesn't that prove baptism is not essential for salvation?"

This is a perfectly valid question and makes sense at first glance. However, the problem arises from not having a clear understanding of what baptism represents and what the scriptures tell us about it. According to Romans 6:3-6, **baptism represents being unified with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection**. The problem with the thief on the cross when Jesus told him he would be with Him in paradise is that **Jesus was still alive**. Christ had not yet **died** or been **buried**, so He had certainly **not risen** yet either. Baptism into Christ was not put into practice until

Pentecost in Acts chapter 2 **after** Christ had risen from the dead and ascended to heaven. This was a new dispensation of Grace, or the Church age.

The thief on the cross was still under the Old Covenant and therefore **not** subject to this baptism. He was saved just like anyone else under the Old Covenant. How do we know that the thief was not baptized in his earlier days? We don't! He very well could have been baptized since it was preached by "John the Baptizer" across the land. The thief knew enough to acknowledge the power of Christ. He may have been a backslider?

WHAT ABOUT ROMANS 10:9-10?

*That if you **confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"** and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved (Romans 10:9-10).*

Remember, Paul just finished explaining in chapter 6 of Romans, and in great detail, the role of baptism. This verse does not nullify that chapter. But it is of significance, however, to note the commentary on this verse in the NIV study Bible that states, "*Jesus is Lord*", *the earliest confession of Christian faith, **probably used at baptism.***" The verbal confession of faith that Jesus is the Christ is made at *baptism*, and is what is seen in the case of the Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8. Notice the eunuch asks to be baptized and Philip tells him, ***If you believe with all your heart, you may.*** And then the Ethiopian eunuch confesses faith in Christ with his mouth, *I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.* He is then *baptized*.

Some common traditions of men vs. the Word of God

The Word of God says:

*He who believes and is **baptized** will be **saved*** (Mark 16:16).

Denominations teach:

He who believes and is **saved**, should be **baptized**.

The Word of God says:

*Repent and be baptized **for** the forgiveness of your sins* (Acts 2:38).

Denominations teach:

Repent and be baptized **because** your sins have already been forgiven.

The Word of God says:

*Jesus answered, I tell you the truth, **unless** one is born of water and the Spirit, he **cannot** enter the kingdom of God* (John 3:5).

Denominations teach:

Baptism is not essential for salvation. This "birth of water" is natural childbirth.

The Word of God says:

*We were buried therefore with him **by baptism** into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).*

Denominations teach:

We were buried therefore with him **by belief** into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

The Word of God says:

*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, **one baptism**, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all (Ephesians 4:4-5).*

Denominations teach:

There are many baptisms and many bodies, and many faiths.

The Word of God says:

*...who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through **water, and this water is a symbol of baptism, which now saves you** - not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, **it saves you** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1Peter 3:21).*

Note: Look at the above verse carefully. It teaches the water of Noah's flood is a symbol of baptism--and baptism saves us. The "it" in the phrase "it saves you" is referring to baptism...So this verse actually states two times that baptism saves us!

Denominations teach:

Baptism does not save you--baptism is merely a symbol.

The Word of God says:

*...and you were buried with him **in baptism**, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the **working of God**, who raised him from the dead (Colossians 2:12).*

Denominations teach:

Baptism is a work of Man.

The Word of God says:

*For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ** (Galatians 3:26-27).*

Denominations teach:

Baptism does not put us into Christ--belief alone does.

The Word of God says:

*Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is **water**. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "**If you believe with all your heart, you may.**" And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch **went down into the water**, and he baptized him.*

Now when they **came up out of the water**, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:36-39).

Denominations teach:

Baptism is required, but not in water. Baptism is in "spirit".

And if water is used, sprinkling or pouring is ok.

And candidate for baptism need not believe (such as with infants).

The Word of God says:

Paul was instructed...*And now why do you wait? Rise and **be baptized**, and wash away your sins, calling on his name (Acts 22:16).*

Denominations teach:

Paul had been **praying** and **fasting** for **three days** at this point, and called **Jesus "Lord"**, so he was already saved. Baptism had nothing to do with having his sins washed away.

The Word of God says:

*You see that a person is justified by what he does and **not** by faith alone (James 2:24).*

Denominations teach:

We **are** justified by faith alone.

HOW SHOULD WE BE BAPTISM ?

*...Peter said unto them, **Repent**, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the **remission** of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38).*

1.) What is baptism? 2.) Is baptism important? 3.) Why won't some pastors Baptize in Jesus name? 4.) Where did the practice of Father, Son and Holy Ghost baptism begin? 5.) Should you be baptized into Jesus Name even though you have already been baptized by a pastor repeating the works Father, Son and Holy Ghost? Again let's go to the Bible for the soul saving answers.

1.) Baptize has for its root the Greek word *baptizo*, which means "to dip, plunge, submerge, immerse." Therefore water baptism can be administered only by emersion. Colossians 2:12 **Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.** Romans 6:3-5 **Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? {4} Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. {5} For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:**

Therefore, in analysis of the above scriptures we see that baptism is symbolic of the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ. **Even if you believe in three God's, which one of them died?** I think you will agree that His name is Jesus. The above verses declare you are to be buried with him, **not them.**

2.) Is baptism important? Is it part of the saving plan of God? I was told at one time that, "Baptism is only an outward profession for an inward possession." My so called spiritual leader said that it was not necessary to be baptized, but it was a good thought to follow Christ in baptism. He also told me that he would baptize me "Into his church" repeating the words Father, Son and Holy Ghost. I was not aware of the following scriptures from God's Holy Word about baptism. Mark 16:16 *He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.* That passage clearly says, "*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." 1 Peter 3:21 *The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: Again this verse says, "...baptism doth also now s-a-v-e us." Acts 22:16 *And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.* Here, the apostle is giving his testimony of how he had his sins remitted. "...*arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*" Friend, how plain can it be?**

3.) Why won't some pastors baptize in Jesus Name? To me this has to be the mystery of the ages. The only baptisms recorded in the New Testament, after the death of Jesus, were performed in the Name of Jesus Christ. **There is not one event where Father, Son, & Holy Ghost was repeated at baptism!**

When I went back to my so called spiritual leader and showed him the above Scriptures he still refused to baptize me in the wonderful name of my Savior. He said, "I know what the Bible says, however I must baptize according to my church's doctrine. Jesus said in Matthew 15:9 *But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

4.) Where did the practice of Father, Son and Holy Ghost baptism begin? Constantine called the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. to decide on what formula his newly organized Church would use among other items argued. Constantine was brought up under heathen teachings worshiping many gods. The followers of which had always practiced dipping themselves three times for a method of purification. At that council, Constantine the Roman Emperor and head of the Roman Church adopted that the Trinitarian formula only should be used in baptism. Thus the practice of repeating the words Father, Son and Holy Ghost was used in Baptism, instead of the in the name of Jesus Christ. This took away the power and cleansing of baptism by only repeating titles of so call others. Also, infant baptism was commanded.

The ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA, 18th Edition, Vol. 3, page 82, under the caption of "Baptism" says, ***Everywhere in the oldest sources it is stated that baptism takes place in the name of Jesus.*** It also states, ***...the candidate for baptism is***

submerged under the water, he is thereby buried with Christ and dies with Him...the candidate for baptism experiences actually and genuinely the death of Jesus in his own body, and is likewise actually laid in the grave, as Jesus laid in the grave...when he emerges again from the water, the resurrection of Christ becomes his...He is a new creature; the old man is dead and all is become new. Those words are from a secular publication and they agree with the Bible.

It is a very unfortunate fact that after the Reformation most so called protestant churches retained the unscriptural formula of Father, Son and Holy Ghost baptism. Please consider the fact that there is not one recorded account of anyone being baptized repeating the words Father, Son and Holy Ghost in the Bible, nor is there one example of infant baptism. On every occasion, in the Bible, they used, or commanded to be use of, the name of Jesus Christ in the baptismal formula. Remember He is the one who died! Some examples are as follows:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:16 For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 22:16 And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

5.) Should you be re-baptized in Jesus name if you were baptized any other way? Here we go again to the Word of God for that critical answer. The following is a very good example of sincere believers that had were ignorant of the commands that the Lord had given his disciples. Please note the two question that were asked these believers.

Acts 19:1-5 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, {2} He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. {3} And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. {4} Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. {5} When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

These two very simple, but extremely significant questions, is a genuine way to check your conformity of God's Word. Look at them again. Acts 19:2-6 *Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? Unto what then were you baptized?* These true believers saw their error and were immediately baptized into the wonderful name of Jesus, and they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. I too was in that same predicament until someone was kind enough to share more truth to my hungry soul. I joyfully was re-baptized in Jesus name. It does make a difference.

It's interesting to note that Jesus never gave his full plan of salvation, for the church age, to anyone, before his death. He gave only bits and pieces of how to be *"born again."* He allowed man to give the full details in Acts 2:38 after his death (man still has that responsibility and opportunity). Nicodemus didn't understand what Jesus told him about being *"born again, of water and Spirit."* Nor did any of the other follows of Jesus. We see this secret was revealed by man on the day of Pentecost. Peter quoted the last will and testament of Jesus Christ in Acts 2:38.

Acts 2:38 was the probate (the process of proving a will) of the last will and Testament of Jesus Christ. We read in Hebrews 9:16-17, *For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead; otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.*

WHAT ABOUT MATTHEW 28:19?

Jesus said, *Go ye therefore...baptizing in the name of the Father, and in the Name of the Son, and in the Name of the Holy Ghost.* This is a beautiful command and is followed completely in the Book of Acts as I will indicate below.

The military teaches commands. A good example is the command, "Forward, march." "Forward" was the preparatory command and the word "March" was the command of execution. The Drill Sergeant used to try to get recruits to error by saying "Forward," and not saying "March"? When they took that first step they were chewed out because they didn't wait for the execution command, "March." Or, the command: "About, face." The drill instructor would sometimes say "About" and some would turn around before he said, "Face." Of course this was wrong.

The command that Jesus gave in Matthew 28:19 was a "preparatory command." The command of "execution" came in Acts 2:38 when the command was given ... ***be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins....*** Just repeating the words of Jesus does not complete his command. Let me give another example. Command someone by saying, "Please go and close the door!" And that individual only repeats your words of, "Please go and close the door." The door is still open because this individual did not complete this command he only repeated it.

The baptism command in Matthew 28:19 is likewise obeyed in Acts 2:38. They were commanded to go to Jerusalem and wait for instructions (Luke 24:47-49). As stated above the command at Jerusalem was to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. Was this a contradiction to what Jesus said in Matthew 28:19? No! It was the fulfillment of His command in Matthew. To understand this command we must find out the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Then we must apply that name to Jesus' command. You see the name is singular, so it's **one name**.

Matthew 1:21 reveals the name of the **Son**....*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS***. We find the name of the **Holy Ghost** in John 14:26. Jesus says, *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will **send in my name***....John 5:43 says, *I am come in my **Father's name***. Who said this? **Jesus!**

Therefore the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost is **Jesus**. We proved earlier, with the Scriptures, that there is only one God. The angel gave that name to the world in Matthew 1:21-23, *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins...which being interpreted is, God with us*.

That's the reason there was no great discussion on the Day of Pentecost when Peter commanded them all to be baptized in the **name of Jesus Christ**. Brother Matthew was there that day. You can find him on the roster in the thirteenth verse of Acts the first chapter. Why didn't he jump up and say, "Brother Peter, you got it all wrong. That's not the way I am going to write it in my book." The reason is they knew who Jesus was. He is God with us. Remember He opened their understanding. We read in Isaiah who this **ONE God** is. ***For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace*** (Isaiah 9:6).

The disciples understood that there was only one God and his Name is Jesus! They also understood that just repeating the titles of God was not placing His name on their souls. In Texas we brand our cattle so they can be easily recognized. God brands his children by taking on His Name in baptism so they can be easily recognized.

Baptism is not a denomination ritual. It is a command of God Almighty and must be carried out correctly for eternal residence with Christ according to the Word of God.

As I reported in the first paragraph of this narrative the JAL airliner crashed at SFO because proper procedures were not followed all the way to a safe landing. Many similar situations are recorded in the history and accident reports of aviation. After logging thousands of safe flying hours only one in-correct procedure may take the best pilot to his grave. That is the reason airlines have rigid checks, and re-checks to insure that everyone who is operating their craft will get from point "A" to point "B" in

a safe and expeditious condition. We should be much more concerned about our flight from **here to eternity**. The Holy Flight Book has the correct procedures recorded for your safe flight and arrival. I have reviewed the necessary instructions, commands, and procedures for your safe flight to heaven in this study. Please check and re-check to make sure you have obeyed the flight plan ordered by God! Baptism is not a denomination ritual. It is a command of God Almighty and must be carried out correctly for eternal abode with Christ.

If your church group will not baptize you in the **Name of Jesus**, then find one that will. Last, but no less effective, baptize yourself and your family. No license is required, **only faith!**

Thousands are coming to this knowledge. Entire churches are re-baptizing their members in the **Name of Jesus Christ**. When the wall came down in the East Block countries it was discovered that many of the underground Christians had been baptizing in the Name of Jesus for years. They only had the Bible for instruction and were not deceived by organized religion.

Mr. Brown opened the dialogue by stating, "One of my goals is for people to start talking about spiritual things." I did! And I might say, "There are no atheists in hell! The Rich Man in Luke 16:27-28 is screaming for someone to tell his five brothers about that place of torment."

I have witnessed drug addicts, alcoholics, and all manner of moral decay cleaned up instantly when they take on the Name of the Lord. What an awesome responsible and opportunity we have! It is not only for the next life but for a better life here as well.

If you want to know more about the deity of Jesus please read; "**The Mystery of the Godhead**," "**Inform to Transform**" and "**Apostolic Church History**," that I wrote to share the true Christ. These and other Bible Studies are on my web page www.godsguarantees.com.

Last, but not least, I hope that you have a better appreciation for our Savior Jesus Christ after reviewing the many Scriptures here-in that declare Him to be Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth and everything there-in.

May God bless you and yours. I hope to see you in the **Eternity Fraternity**. Please pass this free report to others you love.

Compiled by Ron Knott (ronknott1@msn.com) reproduction is encouraged!

Much credit must be given to the scores of Pastors and Teachers who have taught and wrote about this soul saving message for years. Most of this study is Scripture and of course God gets the credit for that. I am also thankful for the understanding of my family for allowing me the many hours of research required for this report.

Please Note: I do not endorse any religious organization (although there are some superb ones), nor am I trying to get you to join a church. My whole purpose is for you to take on the **Name of Jesus** then you will truly be a Christian, with His name branded on your eternal soul.