

Rebuttals to the falsehood entitled ‘Gospel and Church’ proclaimed by the Breakaways

This is written in response to the deviant beliefs perpetrated by the breakaways from the True Jesus Church (TJC). The main purpose of these rebuttals is to help the believers of the True Jesus Church to be rooted in the beliefs of the church according to the Bible and to expose the fallacies of the beliefs of the breakaways:

The breakaways have come up with a series of strange teachings to promote what they believe in. Very clearly, they have crossed the parameters of the truth that they learnt before in the goodness of the Holy Spirit. They have deserted their faith, in pursuit of falsehood.

PART FIVE OF TEN

The following are what they have stated and believed in:

Breakaways’ proposition five: Whoever believes and is baptized, not whoever knows and is baptized.

Jesus said: Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved. Faith and knowledge are both very important. However the faith is the fundamental. Peter baptized three thousand people in Jerusalem the day when they believed. Paul explained to the Roman jailer the way of the Lord more adequately when he came to believe Jesus. After explanation, they were baptized on the same night and became very joyful of believing in God. The Ethiopian eunuch met Philip in chariot and came to believe in Jesus after Philip's preaching. When they came to some water, he immediately requested to be baptized. Philip said: It is the right thing to do as long as you believed with one heart. He replied: I believed Jesus is the Son of God. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing. The eunuch did not see him again, but he was rejoicing because he relied on faith. Philip relied on faith and baptized the eunuch which pleased God who took him away after the baptism was conducted.

Therefore, the faith in Jesus is the fundamental. The eunuch would have come to share in Christ, if indeed he holds his original conviction firmly to the very end. If we begin by the means of the Spirit, we also need to keep in step with the Spirit and finally finish by the means of the Spirit. Not only enter the true door of salvation but also walk along the true way of salvation. All baptisms in bible are conducted once people have believed. Does whoever believes and is baptized nullify the knowledge? Not at all! Rather, we uphold the knowledge by keeping learning the way of Lord after baptism for the progress and joy in the faith.

Verses they quoted

Paul found several Ephesus believers and asked them two questions. “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” “Then what baptism did you receive?” When they realized the baptism received was incorrect and came to agree with Paul, Paul re-baptized them immediately. Rightly after the correct baptism, the Holy Spirit came on Ephesus believers. Thank God. They received the Holy Spirit, and spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all. (Acts 19:1-10)

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16 NIV) and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”(Matthew 28:20 NIV)

Our responses based on the Bible:

Ultior Motives of the Breakaways

1. This is to smear the True Jesus Church for forbidding those who 'believe' in Jesus to be baptised. On one hand, this is to paint a picture that we overstep the boundary of the Bible. On the other hand, it is like saying the church has usurped the power of God, to prevent those who believe from receiving salvation.
2. More importantly, this is to cover up their unbiblical behavior – wherever they go they always perform baptism on those who 'believe', be it genuine or otherwise. By doing this, they can go round claiming that God is with them in their work, to trick pure believers to offer to their bank accounts.

Biblical Principles

1. There are 3 levels of belief. One is to believe that Jesus is the only Saviour (Jn. 3:16). The second is to believe in His word (Jn. 5:24). This is to ensure that one is regulated by the word of God after conversion. The third one is to believe that the one baptism saved (Col. 2:12). Quite clearly, believing in Jesus entails knowing about matters pertaining to faith. In short, to believe one has to be taught.
2. Jesus says, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel' (Mk. 1:15). Repentance precedes belief and must be genuine before God. There are many aspects of life one needs to repent of, after hearing the gospel. The list includes mind-set, behaviour, habits... and past beliefs. For example, by believing that Jesus is the Saviour alone will not change a person's promiscuous mind-set unless he is told about its harmful effect. The person can immediately fall back to sin after his conversion by living promiscuously.

The example of Simon, the sorcerer, sounds forth the danger of not having a genuine faith in God (Acts. 18:20). Though he believed in the message of Philip, he has not repented of his covetousness before conversion. When the opportunity presented itself, the covetous mind-set began to dictate his action, which deprived him of having a right heart in the sight of God. He was more interested in the power Philip demonstrated in performing miracles. In his mind, what he thought about is how to become rich.

Biblical Principles (continued)

3. Judging from verse 12, Philip did not just spend a short span of time there teaching the people in the city of Samaria. He preached to them things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus. The former includes every conceivable aspect relating to God's kingdom. This is likened to classes before baptism. This is time-consuming and requires great patience and love on the part of Philip. Only when they believed in all that Philip preached then they were baptised.

This practice is first started at the inception of the church, before the 3000 came to believe. After the powerful sermon Peter preached, the 12 apostles did not baptise the multitude immediately. Instead, they spent time teaching the multitude to be saved from the perverse generation (Acts 2:40). This is the summary of what the apostles had taught them. It could not be done in just one or 2 hours regardless how the intensive the lessons might be. They must have covered every facet of life crucial to the spiritual wellbeing of the multitude.

4. It is needful for us to bear in mind that no two people's life situations are exactly the same. We cannot use an example of the Bible to contradict another. The Bible does not spell out the time Philip spent with the Ethiopian eunuch. Philip must have been with him quite a bit of time (Acts 8:36). From preaching Jesus to getting baptised (35), Philip must have spoken much Biblical truth to him. On top of that the eunuch was a pursuer of God even before his baptism. He was much more prepared in accepting salvation than Simon, the sorcerer.

The case of Lydia is also a unique one. By that I mean Lydia has been a woman who worshipped God (Acts 16:14a). In fact, it is God who brought His workers from afar to attend to her spiritual need. The entire episode tells us that God has prepared her to accept the gospel of salvation. God opened her heart to understand the teaching of Paul (Acts 16:14b). For her and her family to be baptised almost instantly after having heard the preaching would not be surprising at all.

In a Nutshell

'Repentance before Baptism' occupies a key role in the life of a person who is yet to receive baptism. It prepares a person to accept the gospel with a view to change one's character, to the Lord's delight. When he repents, with a transformed mindset, his life will be corrected and be worthy of God's calling. It is clear that the church has the duty towards everyone who is to be baptised. It requires a lot of teachings for one to be truly repentant over sins before baptism, in order to be kept in Jesus post-baptism. Surely, to teach one who is to be baptised substantially not only has not gone against the Bible but also it helps them to be rooted in faith after baptism.