



## **QA: Do Devout Friends Have to be Baptized?** by [John T Polk II](#)

*All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.*

**QUESTION: "Do my 'devout' friends have to be baptized and go to the same church to be saved with me?"**

**ANSWER: "Devout" is from a word meaning, "good reverence." In the New Testament, it is only used by Luke, in the Books of **Luke** and **Acts**. The English word "devotion" comes from this concept, and it is a worthy quality in anyone who has it. The problem is that it depends on what someone is "devoted" to as to whether or not it saves their soul.**

- 1) **Acts 2:5**: "And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven." They were identified as "Men of Judea, and all who dwell in Jerusalem" (**Acts 2:14**) before any were converted to Christ. The Holy Spirit condemned those who had "taken [Jesus] by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death" (**Acts 2:23**). Their "devotion" had been to Moses' Law and the Phariseic interpretation of it, which mis-led them to act contrary to God's present Law (**Acts 2:24**). But to be saved, they were told and had to obey the command:

"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**)

**Jews were devoutly wrong without Jesus.**

- 2) **The first Gentile to hear the complete Gospel of Christ was:**

[**Cornelius**], a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always. (**Acts 10:2**)

This Gentile was "devout" even to the point of respecting the Jewish religion: its God, its people, and in his personal prayers. But despite this, Cornelius sent for Peter to "tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved" (**Acts 11:14**). Later, Peter said:

"Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe." (**Acts 15:7**)

## **Gentiles were devoutly wrong without Jesus.**

- 3) **Saul of Tarsus** was making "havoc of the church" (**Acts 8:3**), but on his way to Damascus, was told by Jesus to "go into the city, and you will be told what you must do" (**Acts 9:6**). "Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias" (**Acts 9:10**), described also as "a devout man according to the law, having a good testimony with all the Jews who dwelt there" (**Acts 22:12**). He had been "devout" to Moses' Law, but now was known as "a certain disciple" of Jesus Christ. Jesus sent Ananias to Saul to tell him:

"Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (**Acts 22:16**)

## **Ananias devoutly preached Gospel truth to Saul of Tarsus.**

- 4) **In Thessalonica**, Paul said:

"This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ." And some of them were persuaded; and a great multitude of the devout Greeks, and not a few of the leading women, joined Paul and Silas. (**Acts 17:3-4**)

Devout people are saved by Jesus Christ only when they apply their devotion to Jesus Christ!

Being devout, though admirable, cannot save anyone's soul without devoted obedience to the Gospel of Christ. "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:16**). Devoutly following Jesus Christ offers the only salvation.

— *jtpll, September 1, 2019*