

**“BAPTISM” VERSE**  
**The DEVIL *FEARS***



by John T Polk II

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## “Baptism” Verse the Devil Fears

According to the Bible, the principle work of Satan (which name means, “Adversary”) is to present alternative choice(s) to whatever God says is “righteous.” The first example of this is in **Genesis 3** with Adam and Eve. God provided everything for them to live on the created Earth in pure, perfect happiness (**Genesis 1:31**). In **Genesis 2:16-17**, we read that “the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.’” However, the serpent/adversary “said to the woman, ‘You will not surely die. ‘For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil’” (**Genesis 3:4-5**). Eve sinned and gave to Adam, and he likewise sinned (**Genesis 3:6**). As a consequence, physical death, as God promised, with all the attendant illnesses, pain, suffering, sorrow and anguish, has been faced by the living (**Genesis 3:19; Romans 5:12-14; Hebrews 9:27-28**). No one has ever inherited nor been guilty of Adam’s sin, but everyone is responsible for his/ her own sins (**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 20**). We all must live in the corrupted world as a consequence of Adam’s sin.

Clearly the work of the Devil/ Satan involves contradicting or corrupting God’s Word in order to get humans to disobey or devalue that Word. In the Garden of Eden, Satan did both. In **Genesis 3:4-5**, he contradicted God’s Word by telling Eve there was no consequence to her action (“You will not surely die”) and encouraged Eve to devalue that Word by saying that God was simply trying to keep her at a disadvantage (“For God knows...you will be like God”). Anyone who contradicts what God says, or gives people “reasons” for not accepting it “as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe” (**1 Thessalonians 2:13**), is of the Devil, under the influence of the Devil, or/and is doing the work of the Devil. Hence, when Jesus predicted that his own death would occur in Jerusalem, Peter rebuked Him, whereupon “He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men’” (**Matthew 16:21-23**). Peter was doing the work of the Devil with his “well- intentioned” protest of Jesus’ predicted death.

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***This helps us understand, then, that one of the most disturbing passages of Scripture to the Devil is Mark 16:9-20:***

9 Now when He [*Jesus, jtpII*] rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons. 10 She went and told those who had been with Him, as they mourned and wept. 11

And when they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they did not believe. 12 After that, He appeared in another form to two of them as they walked and went into the country. 13 And they went and told it to the rest, but they did not believe them either. 14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen. 15 And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.’ 19 So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen. (**Mark 16:9-20**)

The Devil has waged a furious battle to keep this passage from having any significance to sinners. It is a forthright statement of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that can save a soul and also strengthen faith in the inspired Word of God.

## SATAN OFFERS:

### 1. THAT CHAPTER 16:9-20 DOES NOT BELONG IN THE BOOK OF MARK, claiming that “some manuscripts omit this ending of Mark.”

- a. **First**, a main manuscript that omits it leaves an empty space precisely large enough for these verses before beginning the Book of Luke, thus indicating that the scribes were aware that it belonged there, but that at the time of their copying Scripture, they didn’t have before them the manuscript that contained these verses.
- b. **Second**, there are plenty of manuscripts of the Bible that do contain these verses to indicate they should be included.
- c. **Third**, **Mark 16:8** is worded in an anticipatory, rather than conclusive manner: “So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” The Books of Matthew, Luke, or John do not end in such a tentative fashion, and it would be uncharacteristic of Mark’s account of Christ’s life to finish in this manner. **Matthew 28:20** has: “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.” **Luke 24:52-53** says: “And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.” And **John 21:24-25** contains: “This is the disciple who testifies of these things, and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true. And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.”

Each account finishes with the full assurance that Jesus would be working with the disciples in the near future so that Scripture might be completed. Mark’s ending (verses 9-20) shows that miracles confirming the inspiration of the speakers would be performed until they were written down in the Scriptures themselves. Once the word was confirmed, those miracles would cease being done, but have never ceased being read (**Hebrews 2:1-4; Jude 3; John 17:20**).

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Those who believe that [Mark 16:9-20](#) is not “Scripture” have been tempted, like Eve, to not believe in what is the Word of God:

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it! ([2 Corinthians 11:3-4](#))

### 2. THAT JESUS' PHYSICAL BODY WAS NOT REALLY RAISED FROM THE DEAD.

He had been physically buried ([Matthew 27:57-60](#); [Mark 15:42-47](#); [John 19:48-52](#)). The evidence confirms that He was bodily raised from the dead.

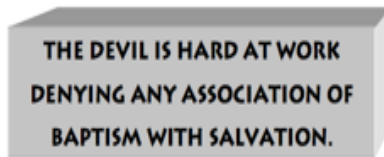
- a. **First**, His physical body appearances to Mary Magdalene ([Matthew 28:1-9](#); [Luke 24:1-11](#); [John 20:1-2, 11-18](#)), two disciples ([Luke 24:13-35](#)), and the rest of the Apostles and many disciples ([Luke 24:36-43](#); [John 20:19-29](#); [21:1-14](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-8](#)), are documented by the other New Testament writers. This mention places Mark's account in line with their eyewitness testimonies to Jesus' physical resurrection.
- b. **Second**, the soldiers who guarded the tomb were given a false explanation (and a “large sum of money”) to account for the disappearance of His physical body ([Matthew 28:1-4, 11-15](#)). Unless His body was gone, this was totally unnecessary!
- c. **Third**, the disciples searched the tomb but found no physical body of Jesus ([Luke 24:1-8](#); [John 20:2-8](#)).
- d. **Fourth**, the Devil is a liar and no truth is in him ([John 8:44](#)). The mere fact that he continues to present “new findings” that question or deny Jesus' resurrection proves that the Devil, at least, must believe that Jesus was bodily raised, for he would only deny the truth!

Those who have accepted the notion that Jesus Christ was not bodily raised from the dead, have been tempted, like Eve, to

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contradict God’s Word. People thus contradict the eyewitnesses to Jesus’ resurrection ([John 20:26-28](#)), but without a shred of evidence that it was otherwise. They have also rejected God’s testimony that Jesus Christ is the Son of God:

Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the gospel of God which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. ([Romans 1:1-4](#))



**3. THAT BAPTISM HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH SAVING A**

**SOUL FROM SIN.**

First, Jesus says it does. In [Mark 16:16](#), Jesus placed baptism after believing but before salvation. Why is this so? If Jesus had felt baptism had nothing whatever to do with salvation, He would have:

- a. Left it out altogether;
- b. Mentioned it after salvation;
- c. Specifically said that it had nothing whatever to do with salvation;
- d. Warned His disciples that it was a contradiction of God’s other commandments.

(1) **Jesus clearly did not leave it out**, but many preachers do. All who leave out what Jesus placed in the message of salvation, thus, are of the Devil. Jesus chastised the Pharisees, scribes, and lawyers who “have taken away the key of knowledge. You did not enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in you hindered” ([Luke 11:44-46, 52](#)). **No preacher has preached the saving grace of Jesus Christ**

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**who has, without authority from God, left out the baptism that Jesus clearly placed before salvation.**

- (2) **Jesus’ words are in exactly the order that He gave them,** and that is why this verse, **Mark 16:16**, must be voided by the Devil. To demonstrate Jesus’ meaning, **there is not one passage of Scripture where baptism and salvation/remission of sins are mentioned together that places salvation before baptism.** All of the New Testament writers, guided by the Holy Spirit (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**), wrote on the subject in complete accord with Jesus Christ. Don’t let a preacher deceive you by quoting all the verses that mention “faith” and “grace” and point out that “baptism is not in them, and therefore nonessential.”

**Verses that do not contain a subject obviously should not be used to cancel what the Bible says about that subject in other passages.** For instance, **Mark 16:16** does not mention: “repentance” but **Acts 2:38** does; nor does it mention “confession” but **Acts 8:35-39** does. Baptism puts a sinner into the death of Christ and allows, for the first time, the now saved sinner to arise as one with Christ (**Romans 6:3-6**). If salvation comes to a sinner without being baptized into Jesus’ death in order to obtain remission of sins, then, as far as their “salvation” is concerned, “Christ died in vain” (**Galatians 2:21**).

All those who have thought they were saved by Jesus without being baptized have followed a “faith only” fallacy that makes their Christian living a “vain” or empty offering to God! All who are saved by Jesus must believe and be baptized as Jesus says. **No preacher has preached the saving faith of Jesus Christ who has, without authority from God, rearranged the order of obedience to Jesus’ gospel, and placed baptism after salvation.**

- (3) **Nowhere in Scripture does Jesus ever claim that baptism has nothing whatever to do with salvation.** John the Baptist preached to the Jews a baptism in “water unto repentance,” and Jesus, who needed no repentance, insisted upon being baptized (**Matthew 3:1-17**). Though the exception to the rule, Jesus obeyed God’s command of water baptism!



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After He was crucified for our sins, and raised from the dead, Jesus completely authorized and necessitated water baptism for all who would be saved through His death

([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [Mark 16:15-16](#)). The Apostles, with complete authority by the name of Jesus Christ, insisted that sinners must be baptized for the remission of sins in order to receive salvation from Christ ([Acts 2:38](#); [10:47-48](#); [8:35-39](#); [Acts 19:1-7](#)).

The “thief on the cross” ([Luke 23:32-43](#)) dealt with Jesus before Christ died, and therefore whatever Jesus said to him cannot cancel out the order of the resurrected Lord to “every creature” ([Mark 16:15-16](#)). None of the writers of the New Testament ever taught against the necessity of baptism for sinners, for the Gospel of Jesus Christ will never be changed with authorization from God ([Matthew 28:18-20](#); [1 Corinthians 15:1-8](#); [Galatians 1:6-9](#)). **No preacher has preached the saving love of Jesus Christ who has, without authority from God, denied the necessity of water baptism for the remission of sins.**

### (4) **Nowhere did the New Testament writers teach or claim that baptism contradicts other passages of Scriptures.**

Peter obviously did not think it contradicted any passage dealing with “works,” or “grace,” or “love,” or “faith” because he said that: “There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism” ([1 Peter 3:21](#)). Peter is saying baptism is the saving point in a sinner’s obedience. God saves a sinner “not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began” ([2 Timothy 1:9](#)).

**Works of the sinner’s devising avail nothing, but obedience to whatever God commands does!** Salvation is “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit” ([Titus 3:5](#)). God saves a sinner “through the washing of regeneration” which He authorizes ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)). Does God contradict Himself? Absolutely not, for “God is not the author

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of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints” (1 Corinthians 14:33).

**Whatever “works” God does condemn in His Word, are not the works of obedience to His Word.** Paul thanked God for the Thessalonians’ “work of faith” after they responded to their “election by God” (1 Thessalonians 1:2-4). Was he wrong to do so? Using one Scripture to contradict the plain teaching of another Scripture is the very thing Jesus condemned the Pharisees for doing (Matthew 15:1-9), for they were transgressing and nullifying the commandment of God and, thus, worshiping God “in vain.” Those who have believe that Mark 16:9-20 is not “Scripture” have been tempted like Eve, to remove a part of God’s inspired Word as though it was unimportant. **No preacher has preached the saving obedience to Jesus Christ who has, without authority from God, made water baptism for the remission of sins appear to contradict any other reference to salvation.**

#### 4. THAT THE EARLY CHURCH OF CHRIST VOTED ON AND DECIDED DOCTRINE(S) AS THEY DEEMED NECESSARY.

The facts of Jesus death, burial, and resurrection can never be changed; the sinner’s response to those facts can never be changed; the disciples’ preaching about Jesus’ salvation offer and a sinner’s obedience can never be changed; and the limited use of miracles to substantiate the preached message and their inclusion in the written New Testament can never be changed.

In Mark 16:9-20, the disciples were slow to believe that Jesus’ promise to be raised from the dead had actually happened, which shows all readers that they were not ignorantly excited but reasonably convinced. Theirs was not a “whitewater” of frothy faith, but a deep river of strong conviction. There is nothing in Scripture to show they ever “took a vote” to decide anything doctrinally different from “the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints” (Jude 3).

**THERE IS NO “SINNER’S PRAYER” RECORDED ANYWHERE IN THE WORD OF GOD!** Jesus requires more than “lip service” to receive His blood-bought salvation. In Luke 6: 46 Jesus said, “But

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why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do the things which I say?”

Do not let Satan take away the proper ending of the Gospel of Mark that God has sown in your heart (cf [Mark 4:14-15](#)). Do not think that obeying a “religious person’s” commands will be honored by God. But even now, while your understanding of God’s Word burns in your heart, what hinders you from being baptized? ([Acts 8:35-39](#)). Make today the day of your salvation.

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



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has been provided by  
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