



**Words of Wisdom** by **John T Polk II**  
For *WECO FM 101.3*

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

**9-19-2016 Can Baptism Save?**

Gospel salvation commands sinners to,

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38**).

Some people will say almost anything to keep you from being baptized like that. But what about John the Baptist's baptism? Paul explained:

John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus (**Acts 19:4**).

Jesus asked the question:

"The baptism of John-- was it from heaven or from men? Answer Me" (**Mark 11:30**).

If John's water baptism was "for the remission of sins," how say some that "baptism cannot save at all?" If John's water baptism was authorized by God, how say some that "water baptism is of the Devil?" As Jesus said, "answer me!"

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**9-20-2016 Love and Baptism**

And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment (**1 John 3:23**).

"Love one another" is about the only statement some people think is in the Bible! They then object to any other "commandment" as "legalism," not to be obeyed. John said God gave the "commandment" to "love one another." Was God commanding "legalism?" Jesus said,

"That the world may know that I love the Father, and as the Father gave Me commandment, so I do" (**John 14:31**).

Was Jesus a "legalist" because He kept God's "commandment" to "love?" Was Peter a "legalist" when:

He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord (**Acts 10:48**)?

Why is keeping the commandments of God "legalism," but not keeping the command to love?

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### 9-21-2016 Grace and Baptism

For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ (**John 1:17**).

[The Child Jesus] grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him (**Luke 2:40**).

Paul felt that what he "received from the Lord Jesus, [was] to testify to the gospel of the grace of God" (**Acts 20:24**). That "gospel" said,

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace (**Ephesians 1:7**).

Jesus offered His blood in his death, and the only way sinners enter His death is through baptism!

Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? (**Romans 6:3**).

Baptism into His death brings salvation by God's grace. If not, why not?

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### 9-22-2016 The Work of Faith

[Jesus said,] "the Scripture cannot be broken" (**John 10:35**).

"Broken" means to "nullify, undo, or deprive of authority." The Bible does not contradict itself, and one command is not cancelled out by other commands. "Faith" is commanded when the Bible says,

Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith (**1 Timothy 1:5**).

But "faith" is a "work."

Then they said to Him, 'What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent' (**John 6:28-29**).

No Scripture dealing with "works" would cancel out obeying the command to work at faith! Jesus said,

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

No contradiction here!

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### **9-23-2016 The Doctrine and Baptism**

[Paul left Timothy in Ephesus to] charge some that they teach no other doctrine (**1 Timothy 1:3**).

"Other" than what? The Apostles' Doctrine commanded:

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**).

They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship (**Acts 2:42**).

Paul warned against any changes:

... To a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ (**Galatians 1:6-7**).

Have you followed the Apostles' Doctrine, which included baptism "in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," or some "perverted" message, promising salvation before being baptized?

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God (**2 John 9**).

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