

THE SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Part II

We started talking about our spiritual heritage in the church of Christ last week. I will pick up where we left off in our discussion.

2. **Taking the Lord's Supper every first day of the week:** In Acts as well as some of the epistles, it is evidenced that the apostles and early Christians came together on the First Day of the Week to break bread/partake of the Lord's Supper. They didn't just come together on some first days of the week but every first day of the week. Just like a rent or mortgage payment are due on the first of the month, the Lord's Supper isn't due on just the first day of some months but is due on all months. The church takes the Lord's Supper every first day of the week. Other religious groups tend to take Paul's instructions about gathering collections (offerings) as being an activity for every first day of the week, so why should the Lord's Supper be done only every once in a while?
3. **The practice of baptism:** We have placed great emphasis on baptism for the remission of sin. When a person believes that Jesus is the Son of God, and accepts Him as Lord, that person is immediately baptized. All examples in the Bible of conversions were done the same day/immediately when the person realized who Jesus is. No one was ever told to "tarry." If you or someone you know were baptized but were delayed in being baptized for some time (days, weeks, etc.) or told they will be baptized on "baptism Sunday," to baptize an entire group all at once, you had better consider whether or not you were baptized according to the scriptures.

Romans 6 tells us baptism is a burial in which we arise to walk in the newness of life. Galatians 3:27 tells us that he who "has been baptized into Christ has put on Christ." Mark 16:16 tells us that "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." These scriptures let all know not only the importance of baptism but how it should be done and its purpose. Please notice that never is there any mention of anyone at any time ever being sprinkled.

The Bible is clear that infant baptism is not an option. Again, Mark 16:16 "He that believes..." makes it clear that belief is a necessary requirement of salvation. So, the one being baptized must be able to "believe" or else they are doing nothing more than getting wet. Remember the conversion account of Peter and the Ethiopian eunuch, Peter tells the eunuch "if you believe with all your heart" then the eunuch can be baptized. Infants cannot believe with all their hearts, so baptism as an infant is of no value and not following the scriptures.