

*"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to battle?" 1 Corinthians 14:8*

**KJV**

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# The Original BAPTIST OBSERVER



*"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..." Jeremiah 6:16*

## Sounding Out The Faith

August 2024

# What is the Bride of Christ?

Recently, I read a writing by a Missionary Baptist pastor that stated that the Bride of Christ referred to in the Scriptures is a metaphor "used to describe Christ's relationship with believers and churches". He goes on to state that these metaphors concerning the Bride of Christ are not always pointing to the same thing. In his writing he consistently refers to Christ and the Bride as a relationship in Christ through salvation.

First, let us consider the true definition of a metaphor. A metaphor is a figure of speech that compares two things that are not related by directly referring to one thing by mentioning another; a word or a phrase is applied to an object or action to which it is not literally applicable. For example, "She has a heart of gold." "Work today was a nightmare." Considering these definitions, the Bride of Christ is not used in the Scriptures metaphorically at all. It is true that context in the Scriptures always drives the meaning of a word, but to say that the Bride in reference to Christ has many applications is to literally teach a universal Bride of all the saved.

In this article, we will look at Scriptures that will show and prove that the Bride of Christ cannot be a universal Bride of all the saved. If this doc-

trine is true, then there is no need for the Lord to have started His New Testament church because all He needed to do was to see people get saved. Let's first consider the Scripture in Ephesians 5:20-33.

**"Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish. So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself. For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church: For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak**

**concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband."**

Clearly in this passage, Bro. Paul, as the Holy Spirit by inspiration spoke through him, said that concerning the marriage of a man and woman, he compares this relationship to that between Christ and the church. This is an analogy that God used to show that there is a distinct difference in Christ's relationship with His local church and those that are saved. Although a man may have "relationships" with many women in his life, i.e. his sisters, his friends, etc., he does not have that same intimacy and bond that he shares with his wife. Jesus died for all the world to save the world, but He shed His blood also specifically for His New Testament church in a different and distinct way. Christ desires an intimate fellowship with those of His Scriptural, New Testament churches that is not available to those that are saved but outside of one of His local, New Testament churches.

**"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood." Acts 20:28**

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John the Baptist was sent from God to prepare a people for the Lord. He came preaching repentance and baptizing people to prepare them for the Lord to call out and start His New Testament church on the Seashores of Galilee. All of John's disciples did not follow Jesus at the beginning. We see this in Acts 18:24-28.

**"And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ."**

Apollos had been saved and was Scripturally baptized by John the Baptist but he had never followed Christ in one of His New Testament churches. He was a disciple of John the Baptist, not Christ. Therefore, Aquila and Priscilla had to teach him more perfectly the way of the Lord and send him to Corinth to unite with the church there so he could accomplish a work for the Lord according to the Scriptures.

**"Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. He must increase, but I must decrease." John 3:25-30**

Notice here that John the Baptist had disciples and Jesus had His disciples, which were His called out chosen disciples, His church. John's disciples were saved and Scripturally baptized, but they were not Jesus' disciples because they had not joined the church that Jesus started. John refers to Jesus' disciples, His church, as the Bride and Jesus as the Bridegroom. John's disciples were not included in this description because they had not united with Jesus' church. Jesus' disciples were with Him and John said they were the Bride. John's disciples were not with Jesus and therefore, they were not included in the Bride of Christ even though they were saved and Scripturally baptized.

Let's consider for a moment the construction of the Bible. Rightly dividing the Scriptures must include finding out "to whom" the message is addressed or is being spoken to. Consider the following passages if you will.

**"Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:" I Corinthians 1:1-2**

**"Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;) And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:" Galatians 1:1-2**

**"Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:1-2**

**"Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother, To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ." Colossians 1:1-2**

These books were specifically addressed to New Testament churches, church members, saints, faithful brethren, etc. These passages are clearly given to those that are inside one of the Lord's, local, New Testament churches. If the Lord's Bride was to be made up of all the saved, then why would there be a need for the Judgment Seat of Christ?

**"For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire." I Corinthians 3:9-13**

If all the saved are in the Bride of Christ, then why would some be rewarded and others would be saved, yet so as by fire? This Missionary Baptist writer that I read, also went on to say that the teaching of the Bride of Christ was only about the celebration and worship of Jesus. Again, if that is so, then why would there be a need for the Judgment Seat of Christ?

**"But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ." Romans 14:10**

**"Wherefore we labour, that, whether**

**present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences." II Corinthians 5:9-11**

The Bible is clear that all those who trust Jesus Christ as their Savior will be in Heaven. However, that is not the "end" of God's will for mankind. God never desired for mankind to just "be saved". God has always desired to have a fellowship with mankind beyond a relationship in salvation. He has always looked for a fellowship with those of His children who were faithful. God has desired this fellowship with mankind, for truly, this is why He created man. However, our sin broke this fellowship in the Garden of Eden, but God's great plan of redemption and sanctification of one's life in faithful service made a way for mankind to have this fellowship with God once again.

**"For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth." I Timothy 2:3-4**

**"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." I Timothy 3:15**

**"But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only." James 2:20-24**

Salvation is solely a work of God and has no work involved for mankind. However, after salvation, God has always intended for man to do a faithful work of service in every dispensation of time. To come to the knowledge of the truth after salvation as God desires, one must come to where the truth is. Today, that pillar and ground of the truth is found in a faithful work of service through one of the Lord's, local, New Testament churches. The Bible is clear in the New Testament that God's will for man is to be saved and then to do "good works" through Jesus Christ as the Head of each local, New Testament church.

**"Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Ephesians 3:21**

**"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Ephesians 2:8-10**

**"To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen." Romans 16:27**

"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence. For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, *I say*, whether *they be* things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in *your* mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight: If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, *and* which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister; Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church: Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily." Colossians 1:18-29

"For every house is builded by some *man*; but he that built all things *is* God. And Moses verily *was* faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after; But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." Hebrews 3:4-6

"And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:17-19

Please look at these Scriptures and understand that in the eternal age, after the New Heaven and New Earth are created, that there is a distinct difference made in Heaven between those that are found faithful and those that have only eternal life, the saved.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with

them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God." Revelation 21:1-3

"And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God: and her light *was* like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred *and forty and four* cubits, *according to* the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was *of* jasper: and the city *was* pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the foundations of the wall of the city *were* garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation *was* jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates *were* twelve pearls; every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city *was* pure gold, as it were transparent glass. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb *is* the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there. And they shall bring the glory and honour of the nations into it. And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life." Revelation 21:9-27

Notice in these Scriptures that there is a walled city called New Jerusalem. The Scriptures are clear that this is where the Lamb's Wife will dwell. There is also a place "outside" the city where the nations of the saved walk in the light of the city. Nothing that "defileth" shall enter into the city. Remember, I Corinthians chapter three talked about our works being judged at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Those that are found without reward are those that will be outside the city because of their "works" or lack thereof on the earth.

Back in John chapter three John the Baptist said he was the "friend of the Bridegroom", revealing that he was not part of the Bride of Christ.

"And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all *men* come to him. John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." John 3:26-29

"And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God." Revelation 19:6-9

In this passage, we clearly see Jesus is present, the Groom, the Bride is present, the faithful of His New Testament churches, and then there are those that are called to the "marriage supper of the Lamb". After seeing these Scriptures, there are more by the way, it is impossible to think that all the saved will be in the Bride of Christ. The Lord's church was important enough for Him to shed His blood for her. What would be the purpose of that if salvation was all there was for eternity? By the Word of God, salvation is not all that God desires for mankind.

In this dispensation of time, the New Testament "church" age, God intends for all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth in one of His New Testament churches so that He can have fellowship with mankind for all of eternity as He intended from the beginning. Yes, those that are saved will all be in Heaven but there is more for those that will be found faithful to Christ in one of His New Testament churches. The Bride of Christ will be chosen out of the faithful in this dispensation, which can only be found as a faithful member of one of the Lord's New Testament churches. After all, God's Word never refers to all the saved as "kings and priests" or a "peculiar" "royal priesthood".

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand. John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." Revelation 1:1-6

"But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:" I Peter 2:9

# Scriptural Baptism

Scriptural baptism is the only way a saved person can have a clear conscience toward God.

“The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 3:21

What is Scriptural baptism? It is Heaven’s baptism.

“And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority? And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.” Matthew 21:23-27

It is by the proper authority.

“Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them. And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted. And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:16-20

It is by immersion in water.

“Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:13-17

“And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to *him*, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a

lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man? Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on *their way*, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.” Acts 8:26-39

It is a burial of our old life and a testimony of our new life that we are going to walk after that new man.

“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.” Romans 6:4-6

Notice in these passages that both the candidate and the administrator went down into the water. The candidate is buried in the water and then the administrator and the candidate **both** came up out of the water. Remember, this is “Heaven’s” baptism and we have no right or authority to change it. Jesus only gave His local, New Testament churches the authority to carry out “whatsoever He commanded”, not whatsoever we decide is okay to do.

What does one gain by Scriptural baptism? One can be qualified to be a member of one of the Lord’s New Testament churches.

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls. And they continued stedfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles. And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all *men*, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.” Acts 2:41-47

By being Scripturally baptized, a child of God is being obedient to their Heavenly Father.

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” Mark 16:16

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17

“For this *is* good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:3-4

Scriptural baptism and then being added to a local, New Testament church puts one in a position to give God glory.

“Unto him *be* glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.” Ephesians 3:21

“To God only wise, *be* glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.” Romans 16:27

Scriptural baptism and then church membership puts one in a place where the Holy Spirit as Comforter in the church can teach us the truths of God’s Word, even the deep truths.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. A little while, and ye shall not see me: and again, a little while, and ye shall see me, because I go to the Father.” John 16:7-16

“But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:10

“But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” John 14:1-6

Make sure you have Heaven’s baptism!