Does my salvation depend on who evangelizes me and baptizes me?

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It is good to answer this question, because there are those who erroneously teach that one's salvation depends on the one who preaches the gospel to you and baptizes you in water. That is, your salvation depends on the faith of another person. They say that one has to be sure, not only that the gospel that you believe and obey is biblical, but you have to make sure and believe that the person who evangelizes you and baptizes you in water, is sent by God.

What a false doctrine! In the first place, the only one sent by God whom I am going to believe, is in my Lord Jesus Christ. In *John 6:27-29*, Jesus says: "**27** **Do not work for food that spoils, but for food that endures to eternal life, which** the Son of Man will give you. For on him God the Father has placed his seal of approval.**"
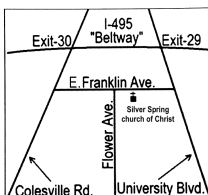
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death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. 5 **For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6** For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— **7 because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. 8 Now** if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him." Hallelujah! So as you can see, your conversion does not depend on the faith or obedience of another person, but it is something between you and Christ.

It is very dangerous to believe that one's salvation depends on who evangelized you or baptized you. That is exactly what some sects do; they say you have to believe that they or one of their prophets are sent from God to validate your baptism, and that outside of them there is no salvation. Instead of preaching Christ, they preach themselves. They believe that their church is the one that saves and adds them to Christ, when the truth is, that Christ is the one who saves you and adds you to his church. He is the head of the church; there is no salvation outside of him, according to *Acts 4:11-12*. So, be very careful not to go on adding another requirement to be saved, as those who believe that your salvation depends on who evangelized you and baptized you, because that is condemnable. Modifying or adding requirements to the pure gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ is one of the reasons why a Christian can be condemned; That is why Paul quickly rebuked Peter, when he saw that he was not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, according to *Galatians 2:14*.

If I believed that my salvation depended on who baptized me, then I would be terrified, since that person could have been pretending. Besides, I would have to make sure that the one who baptized the one who baptized me was a true Christian, and also the one who baptized the one who baptized the one who baptized me. What if there was someone between me and the apostle Paul who broke my baptismal line? Then it would not matter how much faith I had in Jesus, I would be condemned because of the lack of faith of someone else. It does not make any sense to believe that my salvation depends on someone else's faith. Besides this, remember that in the same way you judge others, you will be judged. God may see you as a saved person for your faith in Jesus; but because you started condemning others, saying that their baptism was not valid just because the congregation where they were baptized is no good in your judgment, then God will condemn you, because among your baptismal ancestors, there were many who were baptized in churches that you would consider false. Do you understand what I'm saying? Do you want to risk your salvation, allowing God to judge you in the same way that you judge the salvation of others? Or do you prefer to say: "Lord, just judge me according to my faith in you as my Lord and Savior."? On the other hand, if you have not confessed your faith in Christ and have not obeyed his gospel, "…**what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away,** calling on his name.'" (Act*s 22:16*).

Welcome to the church of Christ!

28 Then they asked him, "What must we do to do the works God requires?" **29** Jesus answered, "The work of God is this: <u>to believe in the one he has sent</u>." The one you have to believe as the one who God sent to save you, is in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. That is why one has to believe and confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God, when one is baptized.

Those who defend their false doctrine that your salvation depends on the one who evangelized you and baptized you, use the biblical passages where there are conversions, to conclude erroneously, that the power of salvation is in the one who preaches to you and baptizes you, instead of concluding correctly, that the power of salvation is in the person of Christ and his gospel. That's why Paul, in *Romans 1:16* says: "**For <u>I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes</u>: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile**."

That is why when Peter preached the message of salvation to the multitude, he made it clear that Jesus was the Lord to be called on to be saved. In *Acts 2:21* he quoted the prophecy that says: "**And <u>everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved</u>.**" And at the end of his series of arguments, in *Acts 2:36* he identified who he was: "**Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: <u>God has made this Jesus</u>, whom you crucified, <u>both Lord and Messiah</u>**." And what happened after Peter identified him? *Acts 2:37-38* says: "**37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 <u>Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit</u>."**

One is not baptized in the name of the one who baptizes you in water, but in the name of the one who baptizes you with his Spirit. In *Matt. 28:19*, Jesus said: "**Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, <u>baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit</u>**." Your salvation depends on no one else.

On one occasion, Paul found some who had not been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus, and this is what happened: *Acts 19:1-5* says: "**1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "<u>Did you receive the Holy Spirit when[a] you believed</u>?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 So Paul asked, "Then <u>what baptism did you receive</u>?" "<u>John's baptism</u>," they replied. 4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to <u>believe</u> in the one coming after him, that is, in <u>Jesus</u>." 5 <u>On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus</u>.**"

When Christians begin to believe that their salvation depends on the person who baptizes them in water, and not only in our Lord Jesus, divisions begin. That happened in Corinth, and the account and exhortation of Paul, is found in *1Corinthians 1:10-18*, which says: "**10 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. 11 My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. 12 <u>What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas";</u>**

still another, "<u>I follow Christ</u>." **13 Is Christ divided? <u>Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized in the name of Paul</u>? 14 I thank God that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 <u>so no one can say that you were baptized in my name</u>. 16 (Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I don't remember if I baptized anyone else.) 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to <u>preach the gospel</u>—not with wisdom and eloquence, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power. 18 For <u>the message of the cross</u> is foolishness to those who are perishing, but <u>to us who are being saved it is the power of God</u>.**" So, what is the power of God for those who are saved? It is not the one who preaches, nor the one who baptizes in water; but the word of the cross, that is, the gospel.

"Gospel" means "good news," and in *1Corinthians 15:1-4*, the apostle Paul explains what the gospel of Jesus Christ is: "**1 Now, <u>brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you</u>, which you <u>received</u> and on which you have taken your stand. 2 <u>By this gospel you are saved</u>, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: <u>that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures</u>.**"

These are the good news: That Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again on the 3rd day. Nobody else died for you! And baptism is a symbol of that gospel, and in *Romans 6:3-8*, Paul explains what it means to us: "**3 Or don't you know that <u>all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death</u>? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into**