

Some Bible Expressions Most Preachers Never Use

by Bill Crews

1. Entering the kingdom or becoming citizens of the kingdom of heaven. To enter that kingdom we must be born again; the new birth puts one into that kingdom (Jn. 3:3, 5; Col. 1:13). To enter that kingdom we must do the will of the Father in heaven; it is not enough to simply acknowledge Jesus as Lord (Matt. 7:21). Most do not believe that the kingdom of Christ exists yet (they think it still future), and most do not believe obedience to any command of God is essential to one's salvation.

2. Obeying the gospel. They call upon sinners to believe in Christ, which is fine, but they never call on sinners to obey the gospel, and the two go together. Rom. 1:5 and 16:26 speak of "obedience of faith." 1 Pet. 4:17 asks: "What shall be the end of them that obey not the gospel of God?" 2 Thess. 1:8 says of Christ at His second coming, "Rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus." 1 Pet. 1:22 says, "Seeing ye have purified your souls in your obedience to the truth. .." Heb. 5:8-9 says: "Though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation." Please read also Matt. 7:24-27 and Acts 6:7.

3. Becoming members of the Lord's church. The Lord's church, as spoken of in the New Testament, is hardly ever referred to, but people are told repeatedly that no church can save and that church membership has nothing to do with anyone's salvation. In Matt. 16:18 Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Must we be members of it? In Acts 20:28 Paul speaks of "the church of the Lord which he purchased with his own blood." Must we be members of it? We read in Eph. 5:23 and 25 these words: "For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, being himself the Savior of the body... Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself up for it." Does God here teach that His Son's church is not important? Please read also Eph. 5:23-27, 30; Rom. 12:4-5; 1 Cor. 12:12-28; 15:9; Gal. 1:13; Phil. 3:6 (Paul had persecuted the church of God. How? By persecuting the saved, and the saved constitute the church).

4. Being baptized into Christ. Not a single passage speaks of anyone believing into Christ or repenting into Christ, but two passages speak of being "baptized into Christ." They are Gal. 3:27 and Rom. 6:3-4. Please read them.

5. Being baptized into the body or church of Christ. "For in one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free: and were all made to drink of one Spirit" (1 Cor. 12:13). Of course, what puts one into Christ also puts one into His spiritual body, His church.

People and religion have not changed much from the first century. What is traditional, accepted, popular, practiced, prevails over what is written in the Scriptures. Preachers could not afford to use these Bible expressions. They would cease to be popular with other preachers and could not continue to hold their positions in their churches. Please think on these things.

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