"Do It Right The First Time!"

by Bill Crews

I heard it while growing up: my parents emphasized it over and over; I was told it at nearly every secular job I ever had; it was impressed upon me in classrooms of the various schools I attended; and I still encounter it from many quarters — **"DO IT RIGHT THE FIRST TIME!"**

Anything worth doing is worth doing well or right and deserves our best. The Bible even says, "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might…" (**Ecclesiastes 9:10**). Anything done (excepting anything sinful) should be done right the first time; otherwise, it must be done again. That means all the effort put forth the first time was wasted and vain. Too, some things become more difficult to do again because we made such a mess the first time, or, we don't want to admit our mistake.

Things are not done right the first time for various reasons: (1) We are in a hurry and do not take the necessary time to do them right, (2) We don't really know what we are doing and will not take the time to learn, (3) The project isn't really important to us and doesn't receive our serious attention, (4) We weren't at all interested and didn't want to do it in the first place, (5) We were just doing it because we felt we had to or to please someone else. But none of these things justifies our failure to "do it right the first time."

Let us now make **a spiritual application** of the point. One of the most important and serious things we can do is to **become a Christian**. It concerns our relationship with God, our salvation from sin, our example and influence, and our eternal destiny after this life. If there is anything in the world that needs to be "done right the first time," it is that. We cannot afford to be wrong or mistaken about it. We must **not** fail to do what the Bible teaches. We must **not** fail to act willingly and sincerely. We must **not** follow the doctrines of men. We must not *merely appear* to become Christians. We must not *merely think* we have become Christians. And we cannot become Christians, then forget about it or feel that we have taken care of the matter once and for all — it is both a new beginning and a life-time commitment.

Let me list some things that are required to become a Christian:

(1) Realizing that you are lost because of your sins and in need of salvation (or forgiveness), **Ecclesiastes 7:20; Romans 3:23; Acts 2:37; Romans 6:16**.

(2) Hearing the gospel (good news) of Christ, **Acts 11:13-14; 15:7; Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16**.

(3) Believing with all your heart that Jesus is the Christ, Son of God, **Acts 8:35-37; John 20:30-31; 1:11-12; Acts 16: 30-34**.

(4) Having godly sorrow over your sins against God and earnestly repenting of those sins, **Acts 17:30; 2:38; 2Corinthians 7:10**.

(5) Confessing your faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, as Lord, **Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37**.

(6) Being willingly and submissively baptized into Christ, **Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 10:48; 16:33; 18:8: 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:26-27**.The Bible has much to say about baptism.

No, you do not have to know all of these passages, but you do have to obey what they teach.

If these things are done, it means also that:

(1) You have denied yourself, taken up your cross, and begun following the Lord, **Matthew 16:24**.

(2) You have obeyed from the heart that form of teaching unto which you were delivered, **Romans 6:17-18**. To see what all this involved in the case of the Christians at Rome, read the first sixteen verses of the chapter.

(3) You have been crucified with Christ, and it is no longer you that lives, but Christ that lives in you, **Galatians 2:20**.

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