

“Do It Right The First Time!”

by Bill Crews

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- (1) You have been born again, born into God's family, thus becoming God's spiritual child, **John 3:3-5; 2 Corinthians 5:17**.
- (2) You have started a race, begun a journey, embarked upon a voyage, **2 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 12:1-2; Luke 9:62; 2 Timothy 4:8** In this life you are now a sojourner and pilgrim, **1 Peter 2:11-12; 1:17; Hebrews 11:13-14**.
- (3) You have been married to Christ in a spiritual union that is to bring forth spiritual fruit, **Romans 7:4; 1 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:23,24,25-27**.
- (4) You have enlisted for life as a soldier in the Lord's spiritual army, **1 Timothy 6:12; 2 Timothy 2:3-4; 4:8; Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6**.

(Please take the time to read all of these passages; they have to do with your eternal destiny.)

Unfortunately, many do not do it right the first time. They are entirely too young and too immature. Or, they are acting impulsively or whimsically (As in “I’ll be baptized if you will.”) Or, they are not serious and sincere. Or, they are just acting to please others (a spouse, or parents). Or, they are merely and momentarily afraid. It does not have to be so. When you become a Christian, really become a Christian (a **follower** of Christ, one who now **belongs** to Christ). And if you didn't do it right the first time, do something about that. Don't go through life with a vain and false hope. If you are, in truth, still lost, don't go through life blind to your condition, or taking for granted the most important thing in your life.

Editor's Note: An excellent article, thoroughly covered, as Bill always does his subject, and highly recommended to you for further study and consideration.

Proclaiming the Lord's Death

by Wayne Goff

Many in the denominational world are celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ by observing Easter. Jesus did not institute nor authorize the holiday. He did show us how we are to remember His death, burial and resurrection – until He comes again.

*“For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, ‘Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.**’ In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, **in remembrance of Me.**’ For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, **you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.**” ~1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

How wonderful to have the privilege **every week (Acts 20:7)** of remembering the Lord's life, death and resurrection in the way that He prescribed! There is no better way to honor Jesus Christ than to do what He commands us!

The **well-intentioned** observers of Easter I can certainly appreciate. What better time of the year to recall the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead than the Spring season? Everything in nature is coming to life: bright green grass, blossoming trees and shrubs, and the singing robins, sparrows and other birds. Death's grip on nature has been released; there is *a natural resurrection* all around us! So to make **a spiritual application** out of nature by applying it to the resurrection of Jesus is a beautiful parable. I get it.

However, in the Lord's church we have five specific acts of worship prescribed by the Lord Himself *every Lord's Day* and we **honor** Him *best* when we worship Him in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**) because He desires men to worship Him that way. So while the intentions may be good, let us *confine* ourselves to His instructions out of love and obedience.

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