

CONTRADICTIONS

Back in my latter public working days as an office manager, a News Release came to my desk from the local Episcopal Church. It was from the so-called Vicar of the church offering baptism to anybody that wanted it. He said, "No one will be turned away, there are no classes to attend or requirement to be met." Then immediately following that statement he said, "You will be expected to say the words of baptism as written in our Book of Common Prayer." He obviously did not see the contradiction in what he had written. "No requirement"...yet "You will be expected to say..."

Some years before this incident I was in another state in an Old Baptist home where I picked up the local newspaper and browsed through it. Back then Billy Graham published a short daily piece in which he answered questions sent to him by the readers. Someone had asked Him, "What must I do in order to be saved?" His answer was, "There is nothing you can do to be saved. All you have to do is accept the Lord as your personal Saviour and He will save you." I don't suppose Mr. Graham ever realized what a contradiction that was either..."There is nothing you can do"...yet "All you have to do..."! Strange isn't it?

There are many contradictions in the religions of men, but none in the religion of Christ.

As for true baptism, it can only be administered to a proper subject, and by a proper administrator...(God-called and God-sent). And as for eternal salvation, it is by grace alone, not by "accepting the Lord" nor by any other conditions to be met by men. God will not share His glory with another. Hence His word says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5). We can, and ought, to save ourselves from many temporal, or timely, things (See for example Acts 2:40 & 1st Tim. 4:16), but eternal salvation is entirely by grace.

--Elder Ralph Harris.