

Ichthys, Ordinances and Circumcision

Introduction

Solomon observed that ***“The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going”*** Proverbs 14:15. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians ***“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good”*** 1 Thessalonians 5:21 and to Titus ***“But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine”*** Titus 2:1. This study on the apparently disparate items listed in the title is aimed at satisfying prudence, proof and ***“sound doctrine”*** in order to help readers ***“hold fast that which is good.”***

Ichthys

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ichthys.

The word *ichthys* is said to be an acrostic for Iêsous Christos, Theou Yios, Sôtēr...which translates into English as “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior”...According to tradition, ancient Christians, during their persecution by the Roman Empire in the first few centuries after Christ, used the fish symbol to mark meeting places and tombs, or to distinguish friends from foes:

According to one ancient story, when a Christian met a stranger in the road, the Christian sometimes drew one arc of the simple fish outline in the dirt. If the stranger drew the other arc, both believers knew they were in good company... - *Christianity Today*, Elesha Coffman, August 8 2008

The booklet *Four Horsemen* pp 1-3 explains what really happened. Early Christians used to identify each other by one quoting a random portion of scripture that the other would finish. Emperor Nero had his spies study the scriptures in order to infiltrate the Christian groups but many of them were getting saved as a result. It was Nero’s deep agents, *not the early Christians*, who therefore devised supposed Christian symbols such as the *ichthys* sign and acrostic *for the purpose of betrayal*, not merely identification. See www.chick.com/catalog/comics/0116.asp.

Believers should remember that the only fish symbol in scripture was a Philistine false god *that fell before “the ark of the LORD.”*

“And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD” 1 Samuel 5:3. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 428.

Note that *ichthys* with its supposed acrostic symbolism must be satanic in origin because it depicts “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savio[u]r” *as an unsaved man*.

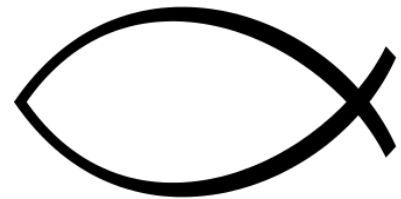
“And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” Matthew 4:19.

Ordinances Not Sacraments

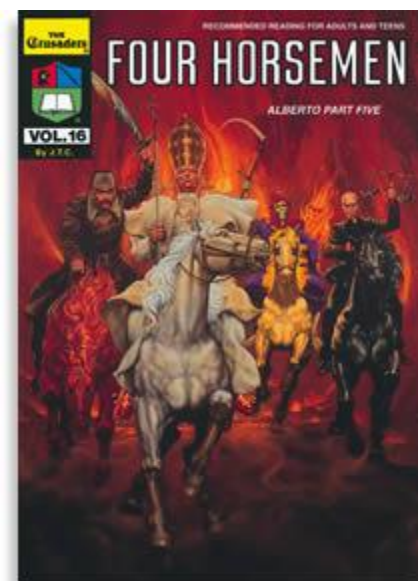
Believers do *not* observe sacraments. They observe *ordinances*. ***“Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you”*** 1 Corinthians 11:2.

“Ordinances” are the Lord’s commandments according to the first mention of the term in the New Testaments. ***“And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless”*** Luke 1:6.

The ordinances for the Christian are baptism and communion. Concerning baptism, ***“rightly dividing the word of truth”*** 2 Timothy 2:15 is *essential* for understanding this term.



Ichthys as adopted as a Christian symbol



Scriptural Baptism

Seven distinct baptisms are revealed in scripture. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1296:

1. Baptism **“unto Moses”** for *Israel*, 1 Corinthians 10:2
2. John’s baptism **“unto repentance”** Matthew 3:11
3. Peter’s baptism for *Israel* **“in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins”** Acts 2:38
4. Spirit baptism **“into one body”** 1 Corinthians 12:13 i.e. the **“one baptism”** of Ephesians 4:5
5. Believers’ baptism **“in the name of the Father...the Son, and...the Holy Ghost”** Matthew 28:19
6. Baptism of suffering i.e. **“the baptism that I am baptized with”** Matthew 20:22
7. Baptism of the lost **“with fire”** Matthew 3:11 i.e. **“the lake of fire”** Revelation 20:15

Baptism no. 4 is *saving* baptism into **“the body of Christ”** 1 Corinthians 12:27 as Paul explains. **“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”** Romans 6:3-4.

Ordinance of Baptism

This is Baptism no. 5 above and should *follow* Spirit baptism. It is therefore *distinct* from Spirit baptism. **“And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him”** Acts 8:36-38.

Baptism Not Circumcision

Romans 4:11 says of Abraham **“And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised...”** Catholics, Orthodox and Calvinists mis-apply Romans 4:11 to support the heresy of *water* baptismal regeneration by supposing that *unscriptural* infant baptism puts the infant into a ‘Christian covenant’ just as circumcision sealed God’s covenant with Abraham. However, baptism is not a **“sign”** or a **“seal.”** It is a **“figure”** of salvation, 1 Peter 3:21. See above and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 1490, 1626.

Moreover, *Spiritual* baptism and *Spiritual* circumcision are *not* the same. Colossians 2:11-12 state **“In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”** At conversion, the Spirit of God cuts the believer’s **“soul and spirit”** Hebrews 4:12 loose from **“the body of this death”** Romans 7:24 i.e. **“the flesh”** by means of a laser-like subcutaneous **“operation”** and the believer is **“baptized into Jesus Christ”** Romans 6:3. He is then **“in Christ...a new creature”** 2 Corinthians 5:17 **“risen with him.”** See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1568.

Ordinance of Communion

“Communion” 1 Corinthians 10:16 is the *correct* term with the *embedded* words *common*, for the priesthood of all believers, 1 Peter 2:5, 9 and *union* with respect to being **“risen with Christ”** Colossians 3:1 and **“the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace”** Ephesians 4:3.

“The new testament in my blood” 1 Corinthians 11:25 is the *correct* term, *not* *covenant* **“For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator”** Hebrews 9:16 so that **“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till he come”** 1 Corinthians 11:26. By contrast **“a new covenant”** Hebrews 8:8 applies to *Israel* at the 2nd Advent!

Finally, **“communion”** is *not* the Mass, a *cannibalistic* **“sacrifice to devils”** 1 Corinthians 10:20, *blasphemous fables and dangerous deceits* Article 31, 39 Articles. **“Communion”** is **“remembrance”** emphasising *active* remembrance. **“This do in remembrance of me”** 1 Corinthians 11:24. Thus:

“Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it” John 2:5.