

Five Views of Mark 16:16

(Mark 16:15-16)

- Introduction:
1. Mark 16:16 contains a statement of Jesus that is so plain, and yet so controversial.
 2. In fact, when all is said and done, there are at least five views of Mark 16:16.
 3. Let's examine these five views and decide which view is correct.

I. He Who Believes And Is Baptized Shall Not Be Saved

- A. Atheists as well as non-Christian religions hold such a view.
- B. But those who accept Jesus and respect His authority reject such a view.
 1. There is a God — without question (Hebrews 3:4).
 2. Salvation only comes through Jesus (John 14:6; 1 Timothy 2:5).

II. He Who Does Not Believe And Is Not Baptized Shall Be Saved

- A. Universalists hold such a view.
- B. The fact that Jesus died for all men, does not mean that all men will appropriate his saving grace (2 Corinthians 6:1; Hebrews 12:15).
- C. However, those who respect the authority of Christ reject such a view.
 1. (Matthew 7:13-14).
 2. (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

III. He Who Does Not Believe And Is Baptized Shall Be Saved

- A. Those who practice infant baptism hold such a view.
- B. However, a close look will show you that this is not what the text states.
 1. Faith is a prerequisite for baptism (Acts 8:35-37).
 2. Faith is a prerequisite for salvation (Romans 10:9-10).

IV. He Who Believes And Is Not Baptized Shall Be Saved

- A. Those who teach "faith only" hold such a view.
- B. There is no question that we are saved by faith (John 3:16) — the question is when does faith save?
- C. Does it save before baptism or after baptism?
 1. Salvation comes after baptism, not before it (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16).
 2. (Hebrews 11:30).

V. He Who Believes And Is Baptized Shall Be Saved

- A. This view takes the words of Jesus at face value.

- Conclusion:
1. Which view of Mark 16:16 do you hold?
 2. If you believe the words of Jesus, just as they are stated, will you obey them?