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Facts You Need To Face

M. Norvel Young

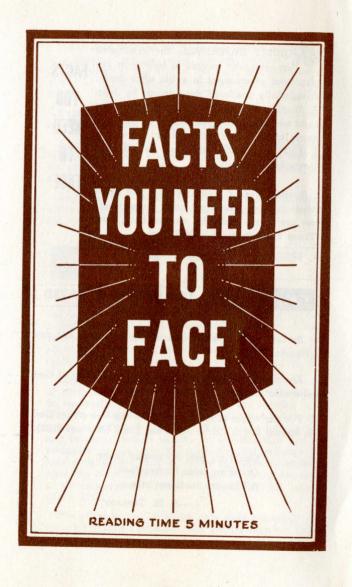
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COBERT INGERSOLL, the celebrated agnostic who refused to believe in reward and punishment in a life after death, thoughtfully pondered these words by John A. Bingham, a believer: "Robert, if you are right and I am wrong, neither of us will ever know it; but if I am right and you are wrong, I shall be conscious of it and so will you, throughout eternity."

Sincere Reader, realizing that the Bible alone tells us where we came from, where we are going, and why we are here, Face These Facts from its Holy Pages!

FACTS YOU NEED TO FACE

FACT ONE YOU NEED TO BE SAVED

As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one (Romans 3:10).

For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 6:23).

Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow, All for sin could not atone . . .

-A. M. TOPLADY

FACT TWO CHRIST DIED FOR YOU

But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).

This is the primary fact of the three facts included in the gospel Paul preached:

Now I make known unto you, brethren, the gospel which I preached unto you ... For I delivered unto you first of all that which also I received: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried; and that he hath been raised on the third day according to the scriptures (I Corinthians 15:1-4).

FACT THREE TO BE SAVED YOU MUST ACCEPT CHRIST

And in none other is there salvation: for neither is there any other name under heaven, that is given among men, wherein we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

The New Testament teaches you how to accept Christ, as follows:

1. You must believe in Christ as the Son of God

But these are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name (John 20:31).

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus, and thou shalt be saved, thou and thy house (Acts 16:31).

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieveth shall be condemned (Mark 16:16).

2. You must sincerely repent of your sins

Except ye repent, ye shall all in like manner perish (Luke 13:3).

Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38).

3. You must confess Jesus before men

Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven (Matt. 10:32).

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (Rom. 10:10).

(This need not be a formal statement. It is simply the natural expression with the lips of that which is in the heart.)

4. You must be baptized into Christ

And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:48).

(This baptism is immersion in water, a burial.)

Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him through baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life (Romans 6:3-4).

Note Acts 2:38 above. Baptism of the penitent believer is "unto the remission of sins" or as Goodspeed translates it "in order to have your sins forgiven."

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ (Gal. 3:27).

Baptism is an act of "faith working through love" (Gal. 5:6).

Peter declares that as Noah was saved so "after a true likeness" we are saved through baptism "not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the interrogation of a good conscience toward God..." (I Peter 3:21).

Except one be born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God (John 3:5).

A penitent believer in Christ who has been baptized unto the remission of sins has accepted Christ and has the promise of God's Word that he is saved of all past sins.

And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on his name (Act 22: 16).

FACT FOUR

YOU CAN BE JUST A CHRISTIAN

Nothing more and nothing less than a Christian. On the day of Pentecost after Peter had concluded the first gospel sermon, they then that received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls. And the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved (Acts 2:41, 47).

These saved Christians belonged to no religious sect or party or denomination. They were just Christians. So we send this message to you who are striving to be *Christians only* by following the Scriptures as our sole guide in faith and practice. We are not members of any religious club or society or denomination and we recognize no ecclesiastical authority higher than the local congregation with its elders and deacons modeled after the New Testament pattern. We plead for unity of all believers in Christ in keeping with His prayer (John 17:21).

The effort to be *Christians only* does not imply that we are the only Christians. The Lord adds souls to His

church and He alone knows all who are members of the body of Christ, or Christians, in any age. The New Testament teaches that all are Christians who have accepted Christ by believing in Him, repenting, and being baptized for the remission of sins. Of course a denomination can easily designate all its members for each member must become acquainted with its representatives, must enroll, and must be accepted by the organization. But a man may become a simple Christian without ever hearing of the great number of congregations known as churches of Christ whose members are pleading for undenominational Christianity. He needs only to read his New Testament and to obey the gospel which is taught there. When he rises from the watery grave of baptism to walk in newness of life the Lord adds him to the church of Christ, the body of Christ, even as He will add you, sincere reader, when you obey the same gospel. Christ has promised to guard and guide you and if you walk in the light His blood cleanseth us from all sin (I John 1:7) and you shall receive the crown of righteousness which the Lord shall give to you in that day (II Tim. 4:8).

But the same Lord who died for us is coming again "rendering vengeance to them that know not God, and to them that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus" (II Thess. 1:8). It is not God's desire, and certainly not our desire, that any should perish. Therefore we send you this message from our hearts earnestly pleading with you to accept Christ. These are indeed facts that you need to face!

"Behold, now is the day of salvation."

This message comes to you from the BROADWAY CHURCH OF CHRIST Broadway at Avenue T Lubbock, Texas M. Norvel Young, Minister

Additional copies may be had upon request. Any questions will be gladly received.