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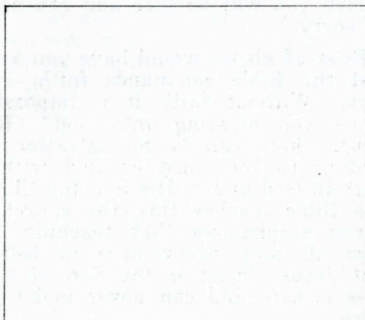
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**SAFE OR
SORRY**

**No. 15
of
The Gospel Tract Series**

**By Eugene S. Smith
Dallas 8, Texas**

Presented by



SAFE OR SORRY

No. 15 of The Gospel Tract Series

In the midst of so many conflicting theories and doctrines of the religious world the honest soul of today is many times in doubt as to which way to go. One stands crying "Lo there" until only confusion and despair result. The question confronting so many must be considered and answered, yes and answered in such a way that the earnest, honest soul will be safe instead of sorry.

We are therefore inviting you to attend the services of the church of Christ and obey the commandments of the Lord. This we know is right: This we know is safe: This we know will never bring sorrow to anyone. But someone is ready to say, "I would just as soon do what some one else teaches as that which you teach." Therefore we ask you to read and see that if you will do what the Bible says, that which will make you a member of the church of Christ, you will be safe and can never be sorry.

First of all we would have you know that the Bible commands faith. Paul says, "Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing unto God" (Heb. 11:6). There can be no salvation according to the word of God without faith in God and in His Son the Christ. The Bible teaches this, the church of Christ emphasizes that teaching. We urge all men everywhere to believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. This is safe and can never make you sorry.

Some of course in the world contend for a universal salvation and say that all will be saved. If that be true then the believer will be saved with all the rest and no sorrow will come. If that be false, as it surely is, then the believer will be safe as he stands upon that foundation of faith. Thus it is the course of wisdom to believe and that faith comes from hearing the word of God. "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). Therefore read the word of God and believe in God and his son.

Second, we would call to your attention that the believer must repent. Christ said, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:5). In Acts 17:30 we have the statement from Paul that, "God commandeth all men everywhere to repent."

Peter said, "Repent ye" to believers who had received faith by hearing his words on the Day of Pentecost of which we read in Acts 2. Therefore we know that repentance while produced by godly sorrow will never bring sorrow. For the believer to repent, that is to turn from sin and wickedness, is the safe course. It is the course of wisdom for you today.

Still there are some in the world that say you can be saved without giving up your sins. There are some who say that all you must do is believe and then it matters not what sins you commit you will still go to heaven. If they be right, which they are not, then the believer who does repent will go to heaven anyhow but if they be wrong,

and they are, then the believer who turns from sin will be pleasing to God while the believer who continues in sin will be sorry. It is better to obey God and then you will be safe regardless of who is right in the controversy and you will then never be sorry.

Third, faith must be confessed. Christ said, "Whosoever shall confess me before men, him will I confess before the angels and my father in heaven" (Matt. 10:32). Paul said God gave to Christ a name above all others that every tongue should confess that name. Therefore it is safe to confess that you believe Christ to be the Son of God. The eunuch did this in the eighth chapter of Acts when he had heard Christ preached. This is the way of divine approval and it is the way of safety for you today.

Some men may say that this confession is not to be made today. Others contend for a confession of sins instead of a confession of Christ but I have yet to find one who will say that God condemns a person for making this good confession. This is the way that is safe. Some may say it is unnecessary but all will agree that it brings no condemnation. If those who say it is unnecessary are right the ones who make this good confession are safe but if they be wrong then those who fail to make it are sorry. It is better to be safe than sorry therefore we urge all to believe in Christ, to repent of their sins and to confess their faith in Christ before men according to the Bible example which we find in the eighth

chapter of the Book of Acts.

Fourth, the believer must be baptized. Jesus said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16). Peter said to those believers whom he commanded to repent, "be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins," (Acts 2:38). Paul says in two places (Rom. 6:3 and Gal. 3:27), that we are baptized into Christ. Therefore as all spiritual blessings are found in Christ we ought to be baptized into him. The believing penitent who is baptized into Christ is following the Bible example of many people. It is the way that is safe and can bring no sorrow.

Some will say that baptism is not essential to salvation but no one will contend that it is a sin to be baptized. Therefore if those who so teach were right, which they are not, then the believer who has been baptized is safe and saved by his faith. But if they are not right and of this we are sure and if baptism is essential to salvation as the Bible says it is, then all who refuse baptism are sorry when the great judgment comes and they are lost. To believe and to be baptized is to be safe with no possibility of sorrow.

But what is baptism? Some say that sprinkling or pouring is baptism while others say it is immersion only. We know the Bible speaks of it only as a burial and that every example is of immersion. We know that all people accept immersion even though they say something else will do. Then to be safe

you should be immersed. If then those who say that sprinkling or pouring will do are right, which they are not, then the one who is immersed is still all right and safe according to God and man. But if those who say that only immersion will do are right, and they are, then all who rely on something else will have nothing but sorrow in the judgment. Walk in the way that all agree is safe and thus you will never have reason for sorrow.

Let the Bible be your guide. Let it be your standard in all matters religious. Believe what it teaches, do what it says and you will always be safe and never be sorry. It is for this that the church of Christ is pleading and we are urging you, dear reader, to find the church of Christ in your community and there believing in God and His Son the Christ, to repent and confess your faith and be buried in baptism for the remission of your sins, then to arise a Christian and nothing more, to walk in newness of life.

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