

Dear Anthony;

Thank you for your response to the last lesson. In your letter, you said we would **not be saved** by the church, but through the **obeying** of the words of God. We **cannot be saved outside** of the body of Christ. Here is the reason why. When we obey the words of God, God adds us to His church. We read this in Acts 2:47. In Acts 2:41 where 3,000 souls were baptized, and the same day they were added to the church. We also read in Acts 2:38, where these 3,000 people were told to repent, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and they then would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

I hope you can see, when we **obey God** in believing, and repenting of our sins, and being baptized for the remission of our sins, that, at that moment **God adds** our name to Christ's church. We **cannot be voted into** the church by man. Also we **cannot be saved outside** the church. If we could, we could be saved without God. I sincerely hope you can understand what God's word is teaching us. You cannot separate Christ's church from God.

We read in 1 Corinthians 12:13, "*For by one Spirit are we all **baptized into one body***". And in Colossians 1:18 and 24, it says "*The body and church are the **same thing***".

Another thing that you said in your letter was that Jesus Christ **founded** the Catholic church. That is **impossible to prove** by the word of God. You use Matthew 16:17-19 to prove what you said is true. You **cannot find** one word about the Catholic church in these verses, but you **can find** where Jesus said, "*I will build **my church***". **NOTE** - Jesus did not say the Catholic church.

You also said that Jesus built the Catholic church in A.D. 33. Anthony, you can go to any church library, and check out a book on church history, and you will find out in every church history book that the **Catholic church** with its first pope, dates its **beginning** in the year of **606 A.D.**

You also said in your letter that the Apostle Peter was the first pope. **NOTICE** - If **Peter** was the first pope, he **would be around 600 years old** at that time. This cannot be true because **Peter** was **crucified** head downward in the **first century** according to church history. I have read these history books. Would you please share with me where you got all of these things that you told me was the truth, and I cannot find one word of it to be true.

It is not found in the Bible, which is a book of truth. Titus 1:2 says, "*God **cannot lie***". Hebrews 6:18 says, "*That it is **impossible** for God to lie*".

The next source of true history is found in public libraries, so you must have gotten your information from the Catholic church. Please listen to these words. The Catholic church and its leaders is not inspired of God to go beyond God's

word. When they do, we must then put Romans 3:4 into effect, which says. “*Let **God be true, but every man a liar**; as it is written; that thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged*”. Please listen, and learn from the words of God.

You said that Peter was the head bishop of the church. You did not read that in the Bible. You also said, that Peter was the head of the apostles, and also the head of the church. You cannot find that in the Bible either. Now lets see what the Bible says about Peter. We read in Matthew 10:1-4 where the 12 Apostles are named. It does not say a word about Peter being the head apostle. The Bible does not say that Peter is the head of the church. The bible says in Ephesians 5:23, “*That Christ is the **head** of the church*”. In Colossians 1:18 we read, “*Christ is the **head** of the church: that Christ may have the **pre-eminence** in all things*”.

Anthony, it is real easy to see where your problem is. You undoubtedly never read the Bible, and when you do, you do not believe what it says. What I am basing this on, is that you have not told me anything that you can back up with book, chapter and verse. Everything that I have said to you is book, chapter and verse. This tells me one thing about your faith, and that is, that your faith is based upon what some church has told you, and not what God says in His word. You need to read Romans 3:4 over and over until you believe it. It says, “*let God be true, but every man a liar.*”

Now lets answer your questions.

1st question - Who is Mel-chis-e-dec?

Answer - If you read the verses that you gave me, you would have known who he was. These verses that you gave me to read will tell you exactly who he is. Hebrews 7:1 fully answers your question. He was the king of Salem. He was also a priest of the most high God. He is without father, without mother.

We can know for sure that this does not mean that he did not have an earthly father or mother. God only created two people, and that was Adam and Eve. Everyone thereafter was born by the natural birth.

Question - How do we know that?

Answer - The Bible tells us. Lets read it in Genesis 3:20. The Bible says, “*that **Eve is the mother of all living.***”

If that be true, and I believe every word that God says is true, then that would mean that thru Eve’s descendants, Mel-chis-e-dec was born, would it not?

So when the scripture says, “*without father or mother*”, it would have to be

talking about his **priesthood**.

2nd Question - Who baptized John?

I would like to ask you a question? What difference does it make who baptized John? You can be sure if we need to know, God would have told us. We read in Deuteronomy 29:29, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever". If we would study our Bibles, we would know the answers to all these foolish questions.

3rd Question - Does baptism save us, or, does good works and our faith save us?

Answer - Lets again go to the Bible, and let it answer your question. First lets read 1 Peter 3:21, "*The like figure whereunto even **baptism doth also now save us***". You cannot out smart God. He gives us all our answers if we will listen to Him, instead of the wisdom of men. God will win over the wisdom of men every time.

3rd Question, second part - Does our good works, and our faith save us? You suggest that we are saved by our faith.

Answer - James says in James 2:24, "*Ye see then how that **by works** a man is **justified**, and **not by faith only**.*"

I would like to share with you some of the things that the Bible says that we are **saved by**.

1. Ephesians 2:5, "*We are saved by **grace**.*"
2. Romans 38:24, "*We are saved by **hope**.*"
3. Titus 3:5, "*We are saved by **God's mercy**.*"
4. Romans 5:9, "*We are saved by **Christ's blood**.*"
5. James 1:21, "*We are saved by **Christ's word**.*"
6. 1 Peter 3:21, "*We are saved by **baptism**.*"
7. Acts 16:31, "*We are saved by **faith**.*"
8. Acts 2:21, "*We are saved by **calling upon the name of the Lord**.*"
9. Luke 13:3, "*We are saved by **repentance**.*"
10. James 2:24, "*We are saved by **our works**.*"
11. Romans 1:16, "*We are saved by **the gospel**.*"
12. Hebrews 10:10, "*We are saved by **the body of Christ**.*"
13. Romans 10:9, "*We are saved by **confessing Jesus' name**.*"

Please **notice** in all of these verses, they do not have the word **only**, added to any of them. Now lets notice closely what man have done to the words of God. They have **picked** from these verses the ones that **fit** their doctrine. Then they

do not even mention all of these other verses. They are hoping that their followers will never read all these other verses on this subject. Just let man get a little bit of wisdom, and all of a sudden he thinks he is smarter than God.

4th Question - Why did John the Baptist send 2 of his disciples to Jesus to ask Him if He is the Christ, or should they look for another?

Answer - We read in Luke 7:12-18 where Jesus met some people carrying a dead man to bury him. Jesus stopped them, and Jesus raised the dead person back to life. Verse 16 says, "And then fear came upon all; and they glorified God, saying, That a **great prophet is risen up** among us; and, That God hath visited his people". Verse 17 says, "And this rumor of him went forth throughout all Judea, and throughout all the region round about". Verse 18, "And the **disciples of John** told him of all these things".

John was **in prison** during this time, so he could not go and find out who this person was, that was being called a prophet, who God had called back to life. So John was just wondering whether it could be true, that he was **one of the old prophets** who had come back from the dead, or could this be the **one who he had baptized**. I see nothing so unusual about that. If I was in prison and couldn't go and find out anything my self, and I had baptized Jesus, I think that I would have wanted to know who this man really was, who was being called a prophet of God, who had risen from the dead. Why are you having trouble understanding this?

5th Question - Why do people worship on Sunday, instead of the Sabbath?

I cannot believe that you do not know the answer to this question, after you have pointed out to me how dumb I am about what church that Jesus built.

Answer - I will again answer this question with a Bible answer. To keep the Sabbath day holy, was the 4th commandment in the 10 Commandment Laws. That was given in the 20th chapter of Exodus. This law was **only given** to the Israelites. It was **never given** to the Gentiles. When Jesus sent His 12 apostles out to preach in Matthew 10:1, who did He send them to? Lets read it in Matthew 10:5. Jesus told them, "**Go not** into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not. Verse 6, "**But go** rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel".

Question - Why did Jesus do this? Because the law of Moses was still in effect until Jesus died upon the cross. We read in Hebrews 9:15-17, "And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by **means of death**, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first

testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance”.

Verse 16, “*For a testament is, there must also of necessity be the **death of the testator.***”

Verse 17, “*For a testament is of force **after men are dead:** otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth.”*

Hebrews 10:4, “*For it is **not possible** that the blood of bulls and of goats should **take away sins.***”

Galatians 2:21, “*I do frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness **come by the law**, then Christ is dead in vain.”*

Galatians 3:13, “*Christ **hath redeemed** us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”*

Galatians 3:24, “*Wherefore the law was our **schoolmaster** to bring us unto Christ.”*

Verse 25, “*But after that faith is come, we are **no longer under a schoolmaster.***” (which is the 10 Commandment Law).

Now I am going to ask you a question. Why would you want to worship on Saturday? There was no one saved while the 10 Commandments was in force. Jesus was the **only person** who kept the law perfectly. We read in 2 Corinthians 3:11, “*The law was done away with*”. In 2 Corinthians 3:13, “*The law **has been abolished***”. In Colossians 2:14 it says, “*The law **was nailed** to the cross*”.

Question - Why would you want to worship God on a day when God Himself said, I have **destroyed** the Sabbath day? Anyone who has an open mind can surely understand these verses.

5th Question, second part - Why should we worship on Sunday?

Answer - 1. Jesus’ **resurrection** took place on the first day of the week. Mark 16:1, Luke 23:1, John 20:1.

2. Jesus met with His disciples **after** His resurrection on the first day

of the week.

3. Pentecost was a Jewish feast day - Leviticus 23:15, and it was on this feast day, ten days **after** the ascension of Jesus, that the church of Christ had its beginning, which was upon the first day of the week.

We can also read in Acts 20:7 where it says, "*The church assembled together upon the first day of the week.* Also in 1 Corinthians 16:2, we read where the Apostle Paul told the church at Corinth for them, "*To give as God hath prospered them upon the first day of the week*".

Please **Note** - After Jesus died on the cross, the New Testament **does not** ever say one word about the Sabbath day having **any purpose** for the Christian today. This is why the church that Jesus built, and shed His blood for worships upon the first day of the week.

In Christian love;

Herb Trout