

The Cart Before the Horse Religion

Introduction

1. In 1 Chronicles 13:1-12 the Ark of the Covenant is brought by David from Kirjath Jearim.
 - A. However, there is one major problem – he tried to transport the ark in a way that was not approved of by God.
1 Chronicles 13:1-12
2. In chapter 15 the Ark is brought by David to Jerusalem – but this time he had learned a valuable lesson and did it God's way.
1 Chronicles 15:1-4, 12-15
3. Wise and good men may be guilty of oversights, which they will correct as soon as they are aware of them.
 - A. In this case, David does not try to justify what he had wrongly done, nor does he try to blame others.
 - 1) He admits his guilt, along with others, for not seeking God in accomplishing His will in the correct order.

Men Reverse God's Order Today

1. By believing that they are IN Christ **before** baptism.
Mark 16:16

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ have put on Christ.**

1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit we were **all baptized into one body** — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

2. Having faith **before hearing the Word of God.****Romans 10:13-17**

Acts 15:7 And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should **hear the word of the gospel and believe**.

Acts 16:31-32 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household." **Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him** and to all who were in his house.

3. Living a righteous life, expecting to go to heaven, **before obeying the gospel plan of salvation.****Romans 6:3-5; 17-18**

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

1 Peter 2:21-23 For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps: "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;

4. God hearing prayer **before being saved according to His will.****1 Peter 3:12**

James 5:16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. **The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much**.

1 John 5:14 Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that **if we ask anything according to His will**, He hears us.

Proverbs 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, **Even his prayer is an abomination**.

5. An inheritance in Heaven **before** and without bearing the cross of Christ.

1 Peter 1:4-5

Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only **but also to all who have loved His appearing.**

A. Jesus said – concerning love: John 14:15.

We Must Respect God's Order

1. In order for us to receive salvation and an eternal rest with our Lord, we **MUST** respect God's authority and do things His way.

Titus 2:11-14

Conclusion

1. Let us not be guilty of getting the cart before the horse in our religious practice.

A. A careful study of God's Word will reveal to us what God expects us to do in order to be pleasing to Him.

B. Our eternity in heaven will be determined not by what we think, but rather what God has ordered for us to do in our life in order, **His order**, for us to be saved!

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.**

