

BATTLING BAPTIST BAPTISM AMONG CHURCHES OF CHRIST

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Oklahoma Christian University and its public relations arm, *The Christian Chronicle*, needs to stop advancing denominational error among churches of Christ. It is one thing to be battling Baptist baptism within that denomination but quite another to have to expend precious time and energy battling Baptist baptism among our own people!

In the July edition, Scott Lamascus wrote up his interview with noted author and advocate of Baptist baptism Max Lucado, who is on record as having said, “I would make a good Baptist.” The heading on the page says, “Dialogue,” but there is no *dialogue*, only *monologue* from Lucado. His error on baptism is not answered, and it is not expected that it will ever be answered in *The Christian Chronicle*.

Lamascus asked Lucado, “**What do you teach and believe regarding central beliefs such as baptism?**” Lucado answered: “I believe that baptism is essential for obedience. As far as I can tell there is no example of an unbaptized member of the New Testament church. In baptism the believer is identified with the righteous life of Jesus—buried with him, risen with him. Baptism is sacred. We’ve baptized over a hundred souls a year at Oak Hills for several years.

“At the same time, I strongly resist any effort to trust the act of baptism to save. The work of salvation was finished when Christ said it was, on the cross. Baptism, nor any other work, adds to his completed service. My only contribution to my salvation is my own sin. The glory of redemption is not my baptism—but that a sinner like me could stand fearless and saved before a holy God” (p. 20).

There is not a Baptist preacher in the entire Southern Baptist Convention who would disagree with Lucado’s position on baptism. The publishing of that error stands as objective, tangible proof that Oklahoma Christian University has turned against the churches of Christ and the Bible doctrine of baptism and seeks their demise.

In a previous article, “Battling Baptist Baptism,” I pointed out that if baptism does not save, then the candidate is *not* buried with Christ nor is he/she risen with him.

Baptist baptism serves only as a *symbol* and accomplishes nothing in actual fact for salvation. However, Paul wrote, “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses” (Col. 2:12-13).

Lucado says, “I strongly resist any effort to trust the act of baptism to save.” In this adamancy he stands diametrically opposed to the inspired apostle Peter who wrote, “The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (I Pet. 3:21) and to our Lord who said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16).

The words of Jeremiah, who could not find a man in Jerusalem who sought the truth, echo from antiquity, “Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?” (Jer. 5:1; Lam. 1:12a). The apostle John wrote, “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God” (II John 9a). In view of this willful transgression, anyone connected with OCU would be well advised to get out of it as Lot fled from Sodom and Gomorrah! (Gen. 19:1-29).