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ANSWERING ARGUMENTS FOR MARK 16:16

Recently, a viewer on our YouTube channel took issue with our video concerning Mark 16:16 (https://youtu.be/L_7rzynuSaA). In so doing, they sent me a video of a man named Dr. Gene Kim who claimed that he knew the truth about Mark 16:16 and how it did not prove that baptism was necessary for salvation (https://youtu.be/stwK5_qTV4). I cannot put his video transcript here, but I hope that my response will be sufficient to explain Dr. Kim's arguments and teach the truth about Mark 16:16. I really expected something better from someone who claimed to have a doctorate degree. I thought he might have said something I had not heard or approached this subject in a new and different way. Sadly, he did not. He made the same old arguments that the denominational world has made through the years. Some arguments were made to prejudice the listeners, some

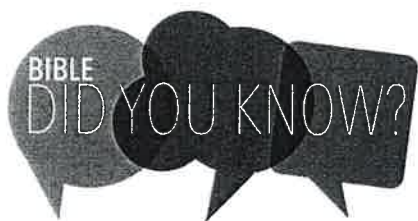
were made from a misunderstanding of grammar, but all of his arguments were just wrong. An example of a prejudicial argument was when Dr. Kim said that Mark 16:16 is the most powerful argument I have. I say it is prejudicial because this implies that no other Scriptures teach baptism for the remission of sins. That is not the case. The Bible teaches the necessity of baptism in multiple books of the New Testament. For example: Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16; Luke 24:44-47; John 3:3, 5; Acts 2:38, 8:12, 35-38, 9:17, 10:48, 16:14-15, 30-34, 18:8, 19:5, 22:16, Romans 6:3-6, 16-18; I Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:26-27; Colossians 2:12-13; and I Peter 3:21. Even if we removed Mark 16:16 from our list, it is evident that God emphasized baptism. Another prejudicial argument he used stated that since God used the term "belief" many times, but "baptism" only

once (that in itself is a false argument), that this means belief is necessary, but baptism is not. Such a statement creates prejudice and a false conclusion if we believe that baptism is only mentioned one time. I believe in the paragraph above that I have shown baptism is emphasized multiple times in Scripture. But I would ask very kindly but very firmly, how many times does God have to say something in the Scripture for it to be essential? According to Dr. Kim's argument, he *must* recognize that baptism is important because it was mentioned many times in the New Testament! The main argument Dr. Kim makes in his video is that the word "and" leads us to an expected consequence. Thus, as he argues, when one believes, he is saved, and then a natural consequence is he wants to be baptized. He said it does not mean a thing was necessary but that it was a natural consequence. He later argued that using the word "and" was a "writing style," and one could even leave off (quote: "chop it off") what was said after "and" and it would be OK. Please read Mark 15:32, 16:17, and John 6:30. According to his logic, would belief not be necessary, either? Based on his argument, he would have to say that this was a "writing style," and thus, belief is not required in these passages! If not, why not? How about this passage: ***And*** now

*why tarriest thou? arise, **and** be baptized, **and** wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord*" (Acts 22:16). According to Dr. Kim's reasoning, Paul can wait because acting immediately is unnecessary, as is baptism and having sins washed away! So, why is Paul arising? Is he saved already? I know some believe this, but if he is saved when he gets to Damascus, Paul is blind, in fasting and prayer for three days and nights, and needs to have someone (Ananias) tell him to get up when he feels like it! (All the rest was not necessary, remember?) If Saul/Paul is saved before Ananias gets there, he is the most miserable saved man I have ever read about! Now, as to the word "and" -- it is evident Dr. Kim did not receive his degree in grammar. The term "and" does not mean that whatever follows is unnecessary. Instead, the word "and" is a coordinative conjunction. It joins two words (whether nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc.) of equal value. It is like saying, "2 and 2 are 4." We cannot say that the first number is necessary and the second is not. 2 does not equal 4. 2 *and* 2 are 4, however. If your mother gave you a grocery list that said get milk, eggs, and bread. Who among us will go to the store with this list and come home with no bread? Furthermore, without a list, no one would "naturally conclude" that mom wanted bread. The word "and"

showed what was necessary to purchase rather than what was unnecessary or an option to purchase. Honestly, I have never heard anyone argue the way Dr. Kim did. “And” is a conjunction and joins two words together. Thus believe *and* be baptized (Mk. 16:16); repent *and* be baptized (Acts 2:38) shows the necessary actions for salvation. These necessary verbs are joined by “and.” They are not made unnecessary by the word “and!” The whole argument that this is just a “writing style” to use is not sound exegesis. An illustration that gave me pause was his illustration of getting on an airplane. He didn’t know it, but his argument actually proves what I teach! His argument was: “He that buyeth a ticket and getteth on the plane shall fly to San Francisco.” Dr. Kim argued that buying a ticket was necessary but getting on a plane was not! How else, pray tell, is one flying to San Francisco *without* a plane? Does he know of some means besides this? If one says he can take a helicopter or hot air balloon, I will ask why Dr. Kim was insistent on buying a *plane* ticket (this is made clear in his video)? Getting on a plane *is* necessary because this is the kind of *ticket* he *bought*! Therefore, it does us no good to buy a plane ticket but *not* get on the plane, does it? Purchasing a plane ticket *and* getting on a plane is

necessary to fly to San Francisco! Just as belief *and* baptism are necessary to salvation. You can’t fly to San Francisco without getting on a plane, and one can’t be saved without baptism! Dr. Kim had a lot of zeal and fire in his speech, and he seems very convincing until we compare his words to Scripture (Prov. 18:17). Baptism is essential for salvation. This is not my opinion, but what the New Testament teaches in multiple verses. – Jarrod Jacobs

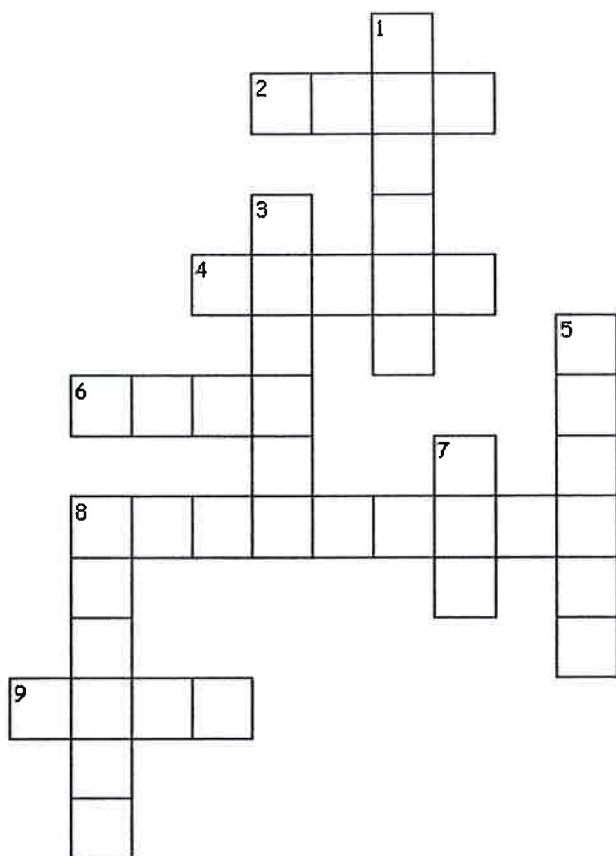


“A man who hardens his neck after much reproof will suddenly be broken beyond remedy. When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when a wicked man rules, people groan. A man who loves wisdom makes his father glad. But he who keeps company with harlots wastes his wealth. The king gives stability to the land by justice, but a man who takes bribes overthrows it. A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps. By transgression an evil man is ensnared, but the righteous sings and rejoices.”

Prov. 29:1-6

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ACROSS

- Adam and Eve's second son, a keeper of flocks (Gen. 4:1-2)
- Lamech took for himself two _____ (Gen. 4:19)
- Cain was of the _____ one and slew his brother (1 Jn. 3:12)
- Can killed Abel because his brother's deeds were _____ (1 Jn. 3:12)
- Adam and Eve's first born son, a tiller of the ground (Gen. 4:1-2)

DOWN

- Cain asked if he were his brother's _____ (Gen. 4:9)
- Lamech's second wife was named _____ (Gen. 4:19)
- For killing Abel, Cain became _____ from the ground (Gen. 4:11)
- Cain settled East of Eden, in the land of _____ (Gen. 4:16)
- Cain became angry when God had no _____ for his offering (Gen. 4:5)