

LETTER 71
1968

BAPTISM - A BRIEF STATEMENT OF BELIEF

It was a real joy to hear from you.... To my mind the most important matter in Christian life is personal acceptance of Christ as Savior. There is nothing more important than this. We must constantly emphasize the necessity that each individual person ally receive Christ into his heart and be born again into His kingdom.

Along with this many Christian leaders have been convinced through the ages that there is another great and important truth taught in Scripture, namely, that God blesses families. Paul told the Philippian jailor that God would not only save him but would also save his family if he came to Christ. God gives us the privilege of not having to bring children into the world and then wait in terrible fear and uncertainty to know whether they will receive Christ as Savior; instead He gives us the privilege of taking hold on His promise that if we do our part, teach them, pray with them, and pray for them, He will show His marvelous grace toward us by bringing them in His own time to personal acceptance of Christ as Savior. This blessed truth has brought happiness and comfort to many a Christian home.

Both great truths are represented, both by circumcision before the coming of Christ, and by baptism since.

Galatians 6:15 is indeed true. No one is saved by circumcision or by non-circumcision. Nor is anyone saved by baptism. Both are merely symbols of our faith in the Savior who sets us apart and cleanses us from the defilement of this world, through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Given to a child, either of them is a sign of the faith of Christian parents in the promises of God that He will bless the little one and will bring the little one to saving faith in His own time. We read in Romans 4: 11 that God gave Abraham circumcision as a sign and seal of the faith that he had