

NEW TESTAMENT TEACHES BIGOTED VIEW THAT PEOPLE ARE EXCLUDED FROM SALVATION

Acts 19 goes,

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

This plainly teaches that these disciples could not get the Holy Spirit because they had not heard of him. It denies salvation for those who have not heard the explicit gospel. Fantasies that God is bigger than your errors so he can still work on you are just that fantasies. Note how they were baptised twice and they had to wait to Paul put his hands on them to get the Holy Spirit. Even baptism in the name of Jesus or whatever is ineffectual. It is as if here baptism is a preparation for receiving the Spirit. Some find this important in the light of the John gospel where Jesus says you need water AND the spirit to enter God's kingdom.

Any errors about baptism then block the Holy Spirit which is why Catholic baptism which claims to put the Spirit in is dangerous.

The text certainly claims that in some form, outside the Church there being no salvation is true.

A truly good religion lets people leave without hassling them or telling them they are doing a terrible thing. It might be tolerable if it said it was a sin but not a grave one. Outside the Church there is no salvation implies that nobody has authentic goodness unless they are joined to the Church in some way. Salvation is about giving a person a good character through God's power and that character stays with them forever which is why they end up having eternal happiness. Some say that outside the Church there is no salvation refers to sects not individuals. This ignores the fact that a sect can have one individual in it. You can be your own church and in fact probably all religious people are more their own god and messiah than you would realise. The attempt to deny that individuals is meant is a scam for saying that while their sect may not lead them to salvation God is able to connect them to himself as an individual so that they are perhaps unawares a member of the true Catholic Church. The doctrine is sectarian - period.

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