

This “and” That

The word “and” ties together words or phrases granting them equal force. For example, your car must have gasoline “and” oil to operate. If you lose a black “and” white pet, you should include both colors in your description. Inserting “and” into a sentence will affect how that sentence is understood.

In regard to the Lord’s Supper, Paul wrote, “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes” (1 Cor 11:26). To observe the Lord’s death requires both eating the unleavened bread “and” drinking the fruit of the vine. A Christian has not observed the Supper by only partaking of one element.

Jesus told His apostles, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (Mk 16:15-16). The word “and” ties SALVATION to belief in the gospel “and” baptism.

Peter commanded, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). The word “and” ties the gift of the Holy Spirit to repentance “and” baptism. What is the gift of the Holy Spirit? Is it the Spirit Himself? Is it His promise of eternal life? We might discuss that another time. Peter’s statement above also ties THE REMISSION OF SINS to repentance “and” baptism once a person has believed the good news concerning Jesus Christ. I think we all know what is meant by the word “and”.

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Sunday: 9:30; 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.