

THE BULWARK

OBVIOUSLY

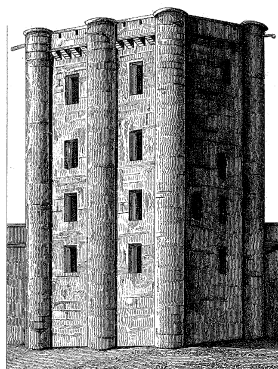
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,
consider her palaces, that
you may tell it to the
generation following”*
Psalms 48:13

Even before my eyes popped open, I could hear Logan Ledger singing the cry in your Bosco song, “Obviously”. It isn’t so much the lyrics of the songs, but the title itself that keeps creeping into my mind. The word “obviously” is defined as being “in an obvious manner; plainly evident.” The word “obvious” carries the meaning of “easily discovered, seen or understood”. Some synonyms would be apparent, clear or unmistakable. Hearing that song triggers my synapses into action and prompts me to wonder why, when something is obvious the vast majority of people refuse to accept it.

For example, it is obvious that the Scriptures show that the kingdom has been established and that in the first century. Paul answers whether or not the kingdom had been established notes in Colossians 1:13, *“For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son.”* Now what is obvious that Jesus promised He would establish His kingdom and that from the day of Pentecost as seen in Acts 2 it is talked about as being in existence; prior to that it was promised. Isn’t it obvious that a promise fulfilled no longer seeks to be binding?

Isn’t it obvious that once Jesus died on the cross that it effectively did away with the Old Law? Once again note the words of Paul as seen in Colossians, *“having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out the way, having nailed it to the*

cross.” (2:14) Then of course there is the statement of Jesus made during the Sermon on the Mount, where He stated, *“Do not presume that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill.”* The book of Hebrews focuses in on the supremacy of Jesus as our High Priest having offered a better sacrifice and so forth. The author of Hebrews sets forth the case of how obviously superior the New Covenant is compared to that which Jesus nailed to the cross.

“Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Was the question asked of Peter and the apostles after a sermon had been delivered that showed those gathered in Jerusalem for Pentecost were guilty of putting to death, Jesus who is the Christ. The answer given was clear and unmistakable, *“Repent and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins...”* (Acts 2:38) What is also obvious is that the necessity for baptism did not change as Peter stressed in his first epistle, chapter three verse twenty-one. *“Corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ”* Baptism for the remission of sins and to be brought into a right relationship with Christ hasn’t changed since it was first commanded.

Funny how a single word can trigger so many thoughts (and I didn’t touch on most of them in this brief article). Isn’t what the Bible teaches very obvious?