

# MAX LUCADO: NO BROTHER OF MINE

By  
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Below is an article that I wrote in 2004. I put it forth on the web for consideration, as it clearly shows Max Lucado to be just a pitiful false teacher.

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If you were present at worship last Sunday (3-21-04), then you may remember that I made reference to the false teachings of best-selling author and minister of Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas, both in my class and in my sermon. In case you were not here (by the way, if you were not here, why not?), I will bring you up to speed on why such references were made.

Just under two weeks ago, I was purging some of my files and came across a December 1996 transcript of a radio program called UPWARDS, which airs on station KJAK in Lubbock, Texas. During that program Max Lucado said some things that should upset all of us who love the truth of God's Word (cf. **2 Thessalonians 2:10**) and who are calling for purity of doctrine in the one church that Jesus died to build (cf. **1 Timothy 1:1-3; Acts 20:28, et al**). I submit the following portions of the aforementioned transcript. Let it be known that the material that follows is quoted word for word and appears just as it did on the original transcript, save the bolds and underlines, which are mine.

## MAX LUCADO

I cannot imagine an orphan turning down an opportunity to be adopted. With one decision, with one raising of the hand, with one agreement to leave the orphanage, that person all of a sudden goes from being abandoned to being claimed, from having no name to a new name, he leaves the orphanage and enters the house of his father. That is what God offers you. No quiz, no examination. All you have to do is say "yes" to the Father. And many of you have done that. But I have a hunch that not all of you have. I have a hunch that there are a few of you listening, even now, and God is using this to pull on your heart. **The Holy Spirit is informing you of something that you never really heard before**—and that is, that God is ready to be your Father. Maybe you never understood that the invitation was for everyone. Maybe you thought that you were unworthy. Maybe now you do understand. God will make you worthy and the invitation is for you. And **all you have to do is to call Him Father**. Just call Him Father. **Just turn your heart to him right now as I am speaking**. Call Him your Father. And your Father will respond. Why don't you do that? **"Father, I give my heart to you. I give you my sins. I give you my tears. I give you my fears. I give you my whole life. I accept the gift of your Son on the cross for my sins. And I ask you Father to receive me as your child. Through Jesus I pray. Amen."**

## PROGRAM HOST

"And friend, **if you prayed along with Max Lucado**, just now, here on UPWARDS, **we want to welcome you into the family of God**. We hope you will contact us and share your personal testimony."

After some advertising the host returns to say, **"Max Lucado returns with a special word for those who received the gift of salvation just moments ago in prayer."**

## MAX LUCADO

Today is the first day you've ever prayed a prayer like that. Could you do me a favor? Could you write me a letter? I don't have anything I am going to ask from you. I do have a letter I would like to send you. I'd like to give you a word about the next step or two. I want you to find **a church**. I want to encourage you to be baptized. I want to encourage you to read your Bible. But, **I do not want you to do any of that so you will be saved. I want you to do it because you are saved.**

Well, there you have it - the gospel according to Max... just accept Jesus into your heart and, presto, you are saved! Disgusting and sad! Max Lucado is leading people right to hell and offering false comfort to them all the while. What a pitiful excuse of a "preacher." I cringe for his soul.

This past Monday (3-22-04) I started thinking again about this matter and decided that I better not take the transcript at face value; after all I thought it may have been colored to present Max in an unfavorable light. Moreover, the transcript I have in my possession may be a fake. I needed to make sure my facts were just that... facts.

Thus, I decided that same day to phone the Oak Hills Church (formerly known as the Oak Hills church of Christ) and talk to Max personally. Regrettably, I was unable to speak directly to Lucado as he was in a meeting with publishers. Figures!

However, I was able to talk to someone else affiliated with that apostate group. We spoke for some time and much insight was gained on my part. Furthermore, the individual faxed me a copy of a ten page study prepared by Lucado on the subject of baptism. The study (really just opinions) is entitled, "**Baptism: the Demonstration of Devotion.**"

Oh, I wish that I could report to you that what I learned from the radio transcript was false; however, I cannot. The statements made by Max on that radio program were corroborated by both the phone conversation and the fax. I will share with you now some statements that were in the "study" Max did on baptism. Consider the following:

- On page two of the study a statement reads: "If you have never been baptized, **in any form**, you will need to **demonstrate your devotion** [to Christ] by baptism in order to be a member at Oak Hills."
- Also printed on page two is a statement that reads: "**If you choose not to be immersed at this time, we still welcome you as a member.** We ask only that you respect our teaching position and not be divisive."
- On page three is the following statement: "Once a person admits his sin and **turns to Christ for salvation, some step must be taken to proclaim to heaven and earth that he is a follower of Christ** - baptism is that step."

- On that same page (three) Lucado appeals to the thief on the cross (**cf. Luke 23:39-43**) to “prove” that baptism is not necessary for salvation. He writes: “How disturbing to theologians to ascend the mountain of doctrine only to be greeted by an uneducated thief who cast his lot with Christ. Here is a man who never went to church, never gave an offering, never was baptized (like the other statements, purely an assumption--smp), and **said only one prayer, but that prayer was enough.**”
- On page four Lucado writes: “Just as a wedding celebrates the fusion of two hearts, baptism **celebrates the union** (post-factor - smp) of sinners with Christ.”
- On page five the following words are found: “The **ritual** of washing **signifies** our admission that apart from Christ we are dirty, but in Christ **we are pure.**”
- On page six is found the statement that persons are to display their decision to have become a follower of Christ by, “**associating with Christ in baptism.**”
- On page eight, Lucado poses a question and then answers that question. The question is, “**Does it matter where I was baptized?**” To which Max writes, “No! **If you were baptized in a Baptist church or Pentecostal camp** or in the lake at a family reunion, that doesn’t matter.”
- On page nine of the study, Lucado poses another question he goes on to answer. The question is: “**What of the ones who die before they have a chance; what if I entrust my soul to Christ and before I can tell anyone or arrange to be baptized, a swarm of killer bees attacks me and I die?**” In response, Max offers his insight to the reader: “Would a God of love reject an honest heart? No way. Would a God of mercy and kindness condemn any seeking soul? Absolutely not. Having called you and died for you would He cast you away because of a curious sequence of events? Inconceivable. **Is it possible for an unbaptized believer to be saved? Yes, definitely.**”
- On the final page of the study (ten), Lucado plainly states, “Baptism is the **first step of a believer.**”

I don’t know what any of you are thinking about all of this, but as for me it makes me angry. Yes, it makes me mad (**Psalm 119:104**). In fact, it makes me just about sick to my stomach with anger. I hate what he is doing; I hate the false doctrine that he is spewing. God feels the same way (**cf. Romans 1:18; Revelation 2:6, et al**).

As a result of my investigative efforts, I cannot and will not call him a brother in Christ until he repents of his heinous, and soul damning, heresy. The crimes that Lucado is committing against the Lord’s church and against those whom he has taught, or is currently teaching, are legion.

Those of us who understand the clear and simple scriptural teachings concerning baptism ought to do all we can to inform people of this error. Those who have taken stock in Lucado’s man-made “Billy Graham” theology are in a perilous position to say the least.

Before closing, I offer you just a few more statements that Max has made; this time from the summer 2001 issue of the “Baptist Standard” (a popular Baptist journal), and reprinted in the October 2001 edition of the “Firm Foundation.” Note the following words of “religious profanity” from the lips of Lucado:

“There are those in the churches of Christ who teach that baptism is necessary for a person to be saved. **I certainly do not hold to that.**”

“If I would leave Oak Hills I couldn’t see myself going to another church of Christ. I would go anywhere the Lord sends me. **I think I would be a good Baptist.**”