

Baptism Now Saves Us

Introduction

QUESTION: "Do you love Jesus?"

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.

- 1. One of the most controversial subjects in the religious world today is the subject of baptism.**
 - A. Yet I wonder why this subject is so controversial. The Bible's teaching on baptism is very plain and simple and easily understood.**

Who Should Be Baptized?

- 1. Jesus taught:**

Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- A. Only people who have been taught the gospel of Christ and are willing to become disciples can be baptized.**
- B. A baby or small children do not need to be baptized because they are already saved. They have not yet reached the maturity of life to understand sin and its consequences.**

Matthew 18:3 Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

2. Philip told the Eunuch that he could be baptized if he believed with all his heart.

Acts 8:36-37 Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?" Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

- A. A person must believe in Christ before his baptism is valid. A baby cannot be baptized because it is not capable of believing yet.**

How Should Believers Be Baptized?

1. The apostle Paul tells us there is only one baptism, but uninspired men of today tell us there are at least two and sometimes even more baptisms (Holy Spirit, Sprinkling, Pouring, Immersion).

- A. Who do we believe? God's directions or man's?**

Romans 6:3-6 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin.

- 1) A believer imitates the burial of Christ in baptism. The old sinful man is buried and the believer is raised from the water a sinless creature to live a NEW LIFE!**
- 2) Sprinkling or Pouring does not imitate the burial of Christ.**

2. Believers are circumcised in heart.

Colossians 2:11-13 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

Romans 2:29 but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

A. Believers do not have to submit to the physical circumcision, but to a spiritual circumcision.

1) The flesh of the Jews was removed, and the fleshly sins of believers are removed.

3. We also see from John that he was baptizing in a place between the city of Samaria and the river Jordan because there was MUCH water there.

John 3:23 Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there. And they came and were baptized.

A. Philip and the Eunuch went DOWN into the water.

Acts 8:38 So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.

1) The Greek word BAPTIZO means to sink, dip or immerse.

4. Where did sprinkling come from?

A. In 251 A.D. Novation was sprinkled by the Catholic Church because he was sick.

- 1) Then in 1311 A.D. Sprinkling was declared to be equally as valid as immersion by the council of Ravenna.
(MAN MADE CREED)

A Believer's Sins Are Forgiven When They Are Baptized

1. Our proof text is found in Acts 2:38:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "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.

2. We also know that Saul's sins were not forgiven UNTIL he was baptized.

Acts 22:16 And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

A Believer Is Baptized into the Body of Christ - the Church

1. If one wants an everlasting union with Christ, one must be baptized into Christ.

Gal 3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.

- A. Baptized believers do not need to go out and join some denominational church because they have been baptized into the body of Christ - which is His church.**

- 1) We can see this further in the following scriptures:**

Ephesians 1:22-23 And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to **the church, which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of **the body, the church**, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

- B. When we are baptized into Christ's body, we are baptized into His church.**

A Believer Is Saved When He Is Baptized

- 1. One cannot be saved until one is baptized. The Bible states very plainly that it is baptism that now saves us!**

1 Peter 3:20-21 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even **baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: **(KJV)**

- A. God used water to save Noah and his family. In like manner He uses water to save those who believe.**

- 1) Why? Because that was and is, God's Way!**

2. **When Christ gave his apostles the great commission, He told them two things the people would have to do to be saved. To believe AND be baptized.**

Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "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.

- A. **Baptism is the final act of obedience a man must perform before God will save him from his sins.**

- 1) **It is not however the last thing we have to ever do to be saved (Revelation 2:10).**

Conclusion

1. **Can you honestly sit here this morning and say that "baptism is not necessary" after considering what the Holy Scriptures teach on this subject?**
2. **QUESTION: "Do you love Jesus?"**
 - A. **If so, you will keep His commandment to be baptized.**
 - B. **If so, you will keep His commandment to be faithful until death.**
 - C. **If not: Paul says;
2 Thessalonians 1:7-10**

