



Scriptures and Doctrine :: Apostolic Doctrine

Apostolic Doctrine - posted by john1140 (), on: 2007/10/14 12:10

Hi Brothers and Sisters,

This morning I attended Sunday school at an Apostolic church and the teacher mentioned the importance of being baptized in Jesus' name only. She referenced Jesus' commandment to go out into all the earth...baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... but noted that the Apostles baptized in the name of Jesus (or Christ) suggesting that the deed took precedence over the commandment.

The implications of her statement was:

- 1) baptism is necessary for salvation
- 2) baptizing is the means by which people are filled with the Holy Spirit (as if it were a separate event)
- 3) If an individual has not been baptized in the name of Jesus only, then he or she is not saved.

I was able to get a copy of their doctrinal statement, and the the last sentence troubles me..."We believe in the baptism in the water by immersion, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (I'm okay with this) and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. This constitutes the new birth."

If any of you can direct me to a previous thread that address this issue, I'd appreciate it. As always, I look forward to any insight.

Sonya

Re: Apostolic Doctrine - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/14 13:27

I reference you to:

John 3:1-8 (verse 3-5)
Mark 16:16
Acts 2:38
Rom 6:1-12

3) If an individual has not been baptized in the name of Jesus only, then he or she is not saved

The remission of sins only come through being water baptized in the name of Jesus Christ-thus, if one has not been baptized in the name of Jesus they are still in sin, or better yet, sin is still in them. Acts 2:38 shows that it is indeed water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ FOR the remission of sins.

Also Acts 4:12 showing how we are saved by the NAME of Jesus

" She referenced Jesus' commandment to go out into all the earth...baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... but noted that the Apostles baptized in the name of Jesus (or Christ) suggesting that the deed took precedence over the commandment."

It is not that it took precedence OVER the commandment, it is that it was the answer and obedience to the commandment.

Re: - posted by john1140 (), on: 2007/10/14 13:40

Thanks for responding. It is my understanding that we are baptized because we have received remission of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (believing that He is the Christ and that He shed His blood on the cross for our sins).

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/14 13:46

Your welcome

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost

Scripture says we get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ FOR the remission of sins.

The blood of Christ is attached to us through water baptism in his name.

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

This was first done on the day of Pentecost.

Re: Apostolic Doctrine - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/10/14 22:20

john1140, they probably came across the objection to their doctrine after they were already committed to the Jesus only position.

You will find that the Jesus only people are so dogmatic in their doctrine that they will actually accuse you of NOT being saved.

You will also find that you agree with them on most points of their doctrine. But they put their dogma out front as a actual point of fellowship.

You can't be a part of them and disagree about their baptism doctrine. In their mind this point is just cause for division. I have run into this several times and so far have seen no fruit.

I never have looked into their "holy Ghost doctrine"
.....David

Re: - posted by john1140 (), on: 2007/10/14 22:31

Thanks for the insight David,

Funny you should bring up the point about division because one characterization a brother made during the lesson was the "nominal church" in comparison to the Apostolic church, with the latter being superior. I was thoroughly confused after that- it's not a term I've heard in this context. I am pretty disheartened right now with Church. My faith in Jesus Christ has not waned, but looking for a church is proving to be labor intensive :)

Thanks again.
sonya

Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/10/15 8:18

Quote:
-----The remission of sins only come through being water baptized in the name of Jesus Christ-thus, if one has not been baptized in the name of Jesus they are still in sin, or better yet, sin is still in them.

How so? This looks like salvation by baptism doctrine to me. John Wesley (and others) was never baptized after being baptized as an infant.

Quote:
-----Thanks for responding. It is my understanding that we are baptized because we have received remission of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (believing that He is the Christ and that He shed His blood on the cross for our sins).

That's exactly the way I understand it. I was born-again and then I was baptized. I'm not born-again *because* I was baptized.

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/15 11:33

Quote:

running2win wrote:

Quote:
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quote

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ **FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS** and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

You cannot be born-again without being born of WATER AND of the Spirit.
John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of **water** AND of the Spirit, he CANNOT ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Water in this verse is the greek word "hudor" and it's definition is: water of water in rivers, in fountains, in pools of the water of the deluge of water in any of the earth's repositories of water as the primary element, out of and through which the world that was before the deluge, arose and was compacted of the waves of the sea fig used of many people

(<http://bible1.crosswalk.com/Lexicons/Greek/grk.cgi?number5204&versionkjv>) See the definition of "water" in John 3:5

This whole principle is the very same thing, that Jesus experiences in Matt 3:

Matt 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. 14 But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? 15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now : for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. 16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the WATER: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the SPIRIT OF GOD descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

The heavens "lo, the heavens WERE OPENED UP TO HIM" after he was WATER baptized, THEN the Spirit descended upon him. It was the water baptism that "OPENED UP THE HEAVENS UNTO HIM" for the Spirit to descend upon him.

Jesus was not talking about water in a woman's womb at natural birth-we know this, because the same principle as John 3:5, & Matt 3:13-17 is carried out in Acts 10:44-48

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the

circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid WATER, that these should not be BAPTIZED, WHICH have RECEIVED HOLY GHOST as well as we? 48 And he COMMANDED them to be BAPTIZED in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Verse 47 Can ANY **MAN FORBID WATER**..

Is Peter talking about the water/fluid in a mothers womb-**NO** because he goes on to say "...that these should not be **BAPTIZED WHICH HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST AS WELL AS WE**

Peter was talking to GROWN MEN, just like Jesus was when talking to Nicodemus.

Vers 48 Then he commanded them to be BAPTIZED in the name of the Lord.

What is the name of the Lord?-Jesus Christ

This is again the third time where Peter tells people to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized EVERYONE OF YOU, **IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS..**"

Acts 10:48 48 And he COMMANDED them to be BAPTIZED **IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.**

Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/10/15 13:28

Quote:

-----...that these should not be BAPTIZED WHICH HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST AS WELL AS WE

But how could they have received the Holy Ghost if (as you say) their sins were still in them and they in their sins? Your understanding of scripture is inconsistent here. A person can't be filled with the Holy Ghost as Cornelius and his household were for what fellowship hath light with darkness. John said that whosoever **BELIEVETH** on him should **NOT PERISH** but have everlasting life. He didn't say that whosoever gets baptized should not perish.

According to you John Wesley is burning hell as we converse and Luther and many others. Their lives speak for themselves so I don't need to try and prove to you that they were men of God.

To me that understanding of the doctrine of baptism is a dangerous one to hold.

Re:, on: 2007/10/15 20:11

Hi Sonya,

You bring up a very good question -this is certainly a very important issue and is essential to have our doctrine to be correct concerning this, seeing it is a salvation issue. You said:

Quote:

-----This morning I attended Sunday school at an Apostolic church and the teacher mentioned the importance of being baptized in Jesus' name only. She referenced Jesus' commandment to go out into all the earth...baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit... but not that the Apostles baptized in the name of Jesus (or Christ) suggesting that the deed took precedence over the commandment.

This is a huge 'red flag' right here. She begins by quoting Jesus when He commanded His apostles (and us) to baptize all converts in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, but then she goes on to "explain away" what Jesus said and to basically say it doesn't apply to us. This is the area of specialty for cults and heretical sects; to take scripture and twist it, explaining it away, while conveniently quoting only the scriptures that can easily be 'read into' to develop their own pet doctrine and to support their own preconceived views. Whenever somebody explains away a clear command of Jesus, saying it doesn't apply, **RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!!!** In the very next verse, after Jesus says to baptize all nations in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, He says, "Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:

and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." -Mat 28:20. We are to teach and practice ALL THINGS THAT JESUS COMMANDED. What right do we have to explain it away? This is to twist and pervert scripture and to "take away from the words of this book", something commonly done among modern day theologians who want to explain away all the 'hard sayings' of Jesus to make the gate that leads to life broader than it really is.

Let me answer her three implications:

Quote:

-----1) baptism is necessary for salvation

Though baptism is very important and is commanded by Jesus, it is certainly not "necessary for salvation". Scripture says, *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)* We are saved by God's grace alone, and that through faith, which is itself the gift of God. We are not saved by grace through baptism, but grace through faith!

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. (Romans 3:23-28)

We are justified (declared righteous and restored to right relationship with God through forgiveness of sins) freely through the redemption that is in Jesus (through His finished work on the Cross) through faith alone in the merits of His shed blood that atoned for our sin in full. We are justified by faith alone, by believing in Jesus, apart from any deeds or works.

I would recommend reading all of Romans chapter 4 and 5, talking about justification by faith. In Romans 4, circumcision is a 'foreshadow' of baptism. Both are symbolic of cutting away wickedness from the heart and a covenant sign of faith in the true God. Also read Galatians chapter 3, which speaks of justification by faith alone.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:14-18). According to Jesus, whoever believes in Him (with a true, living faith) has everlasting life. Period.

For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (Titus 3:3-7)

There are MANY, MANY other scriptures we could quote, but this is sufficient enough alone to prove the case that salvation is by grace through faith alone, apart from any works.

Quote:

-----2) baptizing is the means by which people are filled with the Holy Spirit (as if it were a separate event)

This is not true and contradicts the whole of Scripture. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb:

And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt h

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ave joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb. (Luke 1:12-15)

And we must remember, John the Baptist was still under the old covenant. So if he could be filled with the Spirit from his mothers womb under the old covenant, without being baptised, when grace through Christ was not yet revealed in full and when His blood was not yet shed for the remission of sins, then how much more can we be saved and filled with the Spirit now that we are under grace, apart from any "extra" condition, such as baptism?

Once again, when Peter went and preached to Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell on him and his household when he wasn't even baptised yet:

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days. (Acts 10:44-48)

This PROVES beyond a doubt that baptism is NOT THE MEANS by which one is filled with the Holy Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit when we believe in Christ being justified by faith alone:

O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh? Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain. He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. (Galatians 3:1-7)

We receive the Holy Spirit by the promise of God through faith, not through baptism.

Quote:
-----3)If an individual has not been baptized in the name of Jesus only, then he or she is not saved.

If this is true, then EVERY SINGLE BELIEVER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT IS NOT SAVED. This is absurd. This also means that the thief on the cross was not saved, even though Jesus told him he was, because he was never baptised nor did he speak in tongues. It is not different under the New Covenant either, for under both covenants men were justified by faith apart from works (read Romans 4 and Hebrews 11). Is the grace that saves greater under the Old Testament than it is under the New Testament? Why can men be saved by faith ALONE apart from even baptism under the Old and not under the New? What then do you do with the MANY NT scriptures that overwhelmingly speak of being saved by grace through faith alone?

Quote:
-----It is my understanding that we are baptized because we have received remission of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (believing that He is the Christ and that He shed His blood on the cross for our sins).

Your understanding is correct. Do not let the grace of God be perverted by the doctrines of men!

Quote:
-----My faith in Jesus Christ has not waned, but looking for a church is proving to be labor intensive

We must remember that the Church is not a building or a denomination, but the people of God who are His saints, His "c

alled out ones" who have been born again by the Spirit and placed by God into the Body of Christ. Looking for a local fellowship can be very disheartening in modern times. There is error and heresy on all sides, as the Apostles of our Lord warned. They prophesied of a great falling away before the man of sin is revealed, and this is what we are seeing. Much of the institutional church is built on the traditions and doctrines of men, not on the Solid Rock of CHRIST ALONE. Run from these places, run for your life! Beware of the leaven of the pharisees! Seek God, fast and pray in earnest, and He will lead you where He wants you in His perfect will! Don't run ahead of God and get sucked into a false doctrine or counterfeit church, seek His face and He will lead you as the Good Shepherd! His sheep know His voice and another shepherd they will not follow!

These deceivers call themselves Apostolic, but nothing could be further from the truth. There is division from the Body of Christ around the world, the sectarian spirit, faction, and more all because of a false doctrine.

"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. (Galatians 5:19-21)

I recommend the following link for more information on this subject:

<http://www.carm.org/oneness.htm>

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/15 23:20

"A person can't be filled with the Holy Ghost as Cornelius and his household were for what fellowship hath light with darkness. John said that whosoever BELIEVETH on him should NOT PERISH but have everlasting life. He didn't say that whosoever gets baptized should not perish."

Mark 16:16 He that BELIEVETH AND IS BAPTIZED shall be saved;..'

He that believeth **AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED**, he that believeth not shall be damned.

That is plain and simple. And the reason he didn't say he that believeth not and is not baptized shall be damned-is because unbelievers don't get baptized-BELIEVERS do!

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/10/16 1:58

Hi everyone.

"Quote:

It is my understanding that we are baptized because we have received remission of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (believing that He is the Christ and that He shed His blood on the cross for our sins).

Your understanding is correct. Do not let the grace of God be perverted by the doctrines of men!"

Wanted to add to what was mentioned here this also, from the book of Acts:

"And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us; And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." -Acts 15:7-9

And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

Grace and peace.

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/16 9:18

It is my understanding that we are baptized because we have received remission of sins through the blood of Jesus Christ (believing that He is the Christ and that He shed His blood on the cross for our sins).

Your understanding is correct.]

Grace and peace.

That is incorrect. No scripture teaches that once you believe in Jesus you automatically have the Blood of Jesus applied to your life/sins.

Faith alone or by itself, or without works saves **NO ONE**. James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well:**the devils ALSO BELIEVE**, and tremble. 20 But wilt thou know, O VAIN MAN, that FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD!!!!!!

James even called the man vain who believes that faith alone can save-He said even the devils believe-does that mean the devils are saved?-NO, under NO circumstance.

We are justified by works-what works, the works in obedience unto God-the very works that the devils that believe lack. Did you not read:

James 2:21 21 Was not Abraham our father JUSTIFIED BY WORKS, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? 22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, AND BY WORKS was faith MADE PERFECT? 23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. 24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.

The father of faith was justified BY WORKS!! What were his works, offering up Isaac as instructed by God in obedience to God. Any person who rejects being baptized is in sin which is disobedience to God-which it was one simple act of disobedience that got Adam and Eve kicked out of the presence of God from the garden.

Yes, we are saved **BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH AND THAT NOT OF OURSELVES**: it is the gift of God: not of works lest any man should boast.

But you must remember, faith without works IS DEAD. And the "not of works lest any man should boast" is referring to man's OWN works, it is not referring to God's Work through the operation of salvation.

Once again, the Bible plainly says we are WATER BAPTIZED **FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS**.

Acts 2:36 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren,

WHAT SHALL WE DO? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and **be BAPTIZED EVERYONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS...**"

He plainly said be baptized **in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS**

It is unscriptural to say you are baptized because you already received remission of sins-that is unscriptural.

Jesus Christ left the act of remitting sins to the Apostles (I will probably be called a heretic for that), but that is what he did:

John 20:23 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost : 23 Whosoever sins YE REMIT, THEY ARE REMITTED UNTO THEM; and whosesoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

He said " **whosesoever sins YE(YOU) REMIT, THEY ARE REMITTED unto them; AND whosesoever sins YE(you) retain, they are retained.**

The Apostles remitted sin by water baptizing people in the name of JESUS CHRIST. Again, this is why, Peter on the day of Pentecost, says in Acts 2:38

Acts 2:38 "....and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS

The name of this thread is the "Apostles Doctrine"-this was their teaching, even in the Word of God.

On the same day, on the Day of Pentecost, the Bible says :

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/10/16 9:27

Hi BlazedbyGod.

With the household of Cornelius, God Himself bore them witness

"And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;" -Acts 15:8

He bore witness of their hearts.

That they were purified. By faith.

That is, before they were baptized in water.

Chris

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/16 10:03

Quote:

ChrisJD wrote:
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Chris

"And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;" -Acts 15:8

Did you not read Acts 10:47 Can ANY MAN forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.

These men just received the Holy Ghost and Peter still says not even they can forbid to be water baptized.

Re:, on: 2007/10/16 10:27

Everyone from Abraham, to the thief on the cross to the apostles were saved by faith. Some in my fellowship coming from a Church of Christ background put a very heavy emphasis on water baptism to the point of baptismal regeneration... however when asked if someone who is converted in their heart out in the dessert with no water around and is killed on their way to find water to be baptized is saved or not they will back down and say yes they are saved... by grace through faith. I worry about anyone who can not understand this, the foundation of salvation, faith, true faith, cleansing faith, saving faith.

As a former thug in our fellowship puts it.. if you go and get beat into a gang, you become a member... but you better go and get your tat afterwards because its commanded as a mark of your membership... the tat doesn't make you a member of the gang, its a mark, more then symbolic, but less then qualifying.

OK, thats not a great analogy, but it's better then the reckless cherry picking and throwing around of scripture that some people use to support their religious arguments.

I think brother Mike said it best when this came up last... just get baptized.

In Christ - Jim

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/16 10:32

Quote:

ChrisJD wrote:
Hi BlazedbyGod.

With the household of Cornelius, God Himself bore them witness

"And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;" -Acts 15:8

He bore witness of their hearts.

That they were purified. By faith.

That is, before they were baptized in water.

Chris

The Bible also says that Christ was the Lamb that was slain BEFORE the Foundations of the World, but he still had to literally and physically come and die on the Cross.

He was slain before he was slain, but he still had to physically come to earth and be slain.

When it came to the Gentiles, God had to give them the Holy Ghost first by his divine power-this is why as Peter was preaching, the Holy Ghost just fell on them without Peter even laying hands....God had to do it this way to the Gentiles, because if not, there would have been no way that the disciples would have water baptized Gentiles- Peter knew they were granted repentance by the fact that the Holy Ghost fell on them-then he knew, that, as scripture says, "repentance was granted unto them" thus it was now that they could be baptized with water.

Acts 11:18"...Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

Re: - posted by ChrisJD (), on: 2007/10/16 10:35

Hi again BlazedbyGod,

"These men just received the Holy Ghost and Peter still says not even they can forbid to be water baptized."

But what does this mean. Did this mean that Peter thought they still must be cleansed from sin by being baptised in water?

He testifies later, in this passage in Acts 15 that

"God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost"

God had testified of their hearts that they were purified by faith(Acts 15:9). And were they not then united to Christ through the Holy Spirit?

And if they were united to Christ, what more cleansing from sin could they have received from water baptism?

It seems to me that Peter is not here expressing his unwillingness to forbid them from some further cleansing through

water baptism. But that he was unwilling to forbid them the obedience to, and open and public declaration of, their faith and unity with Christ, which God had just testified of Himself, by giving them the Holy Spirit.

I call to mind what God had told Peter beforehand:

"And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." -Acts 10:15

What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common

Please forgive me if I do not continue in this discussion. I'd like to look more towards the confrence.

Chris

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/16 10:41

Quote:

jimdied2sin wrote:

Everyone from Abraham, to the thief on the cross to the apostles were saved by faith.

I think brother Mike said it best when this came up last... just get baptized.

In Christ - Jim

My brother, nobody in scripture was saved by faith ALONE. Faith without works has always been dead-even in the Old T

Abraham was justified BY WORKS when he OFFERRED(that's the work) up Issacc upon the altar.

Again, if people are saved by faith alone-then even the devils in James that Believe are saved.

And even these devils of Matt 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

I guess even they are saved as well-because they have confessed and believed?

Please read this slow:

James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him? ...
18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.
19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils ALSO BELIEVE, and tremble.
20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?
21 Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?
22 Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?
23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.
24 Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.
25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way?
26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

Re: - posted by InTheLight (), on: 2007/10/16 10:47

Thanks for your excellent contributions to this thread Josef and Chris. Whenever we take up the topic of salvation we need to be reminded that the whole of Scripture makes it very clear that we are saved by grace through faith.

The Scriptures also teach that the initial act of obedience in the early church was a public confession of that faith. That public confession came forth in baptism so that baptism is linked with repentance. "Repent and be baptized" is to say "repent of your sin and make public confession." It may be very much like Romans 10:9-10, "If you believe in heart God raised Him from the dead, and confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' you will be saved."

So, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the remission of sin," simply takes the confession and the faith and puts it together. You want to stay away from anything that would strike a blow at salvation by faith which is all through Scripture. We want to see baptism for what it is, the outward confession of the inward belief.

In Christ,

Ron

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/16 10:50

"And the voice spake unto him again the second time, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common." -Acts 10:15

If God had already cleansed them, then what more cleansing could receiving the Holy Ghost do-even as you asked me in reference to baptism.

You still forget that before any of this, Peter says:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them Repent, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS..."

That is plain

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/16 10:54

Quote:

InTheLight wrote:

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In Christ,

Ron

With all that said:

Matt 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. 33 But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven

So what is he really saying? Even as "IntheLight" has just said.

James 2:14 WHAT DOTHTH IT PROFIT, my brethren, though a man "SAY" he hath faith, and have not works? can faith sa

ve him?

What does it profit, though a man say " I believe in Jesus" AND HAVE NOT WORKS/GOOD FRUIT? (obedience to the word)

It profits nothing-faith alone can save no one.

Re:, on: 2007/10/16 11:03

Quote:

-----Again, if people are saved by faith alone-then even the devils in James that Believe are saved.

No, the devils that James speaks about are not elected to salvation...

Amen though, faith without works is dead... I clearly wrote faith alone with the qualifier of saving faith and in context to someone who is on their way to carry out the "works" part because their heart has been converted and they want to obey God.

Please re-read what i wrote, you gave the generic answer, that is faith without works is dead, when that is not even in question here.

What is in question is if the person is on their way to carry out the work and is unable to do so as in the case of not having water around are they saved by their faith that produces good works or by faith AND the actual outward act of good works. Though this is hypothetical, it is an important distinction in our understanding and experience of grace.

In Christ - Jim

Re: - posted by 1another, on: 2007/10/16 11:07

Hey

This is really good response to some who have questions about being baptized. Its worth the read.

I think the key is not so much you have to be baptized, but rather, that you will want to be baptized. You will want to obey the Lord since you love the Lord. Its really a heart thing:-)

Have a great day

A Fresh Look At What God Says About Water Baptism

It is unfortunate, yet undeniable, that the subject of water baptism has polarized and divided men for centuries. Unregenerate religious leaders and other "Christians" have littered history with ungodly exploits in defense of their doctrines. Not uncommon are accounts of religious leaders and "scholars" physically seizing those that would dare to question whether or not infant baptism via sprinkling is allowable by God. After a mock "orthodoxy" trial, these well-respected church elders, preachers and authors literally drowned to the death the nonconformists in a river to demonstrate the superiority

rity of their doctrine of sprinkling over immersion baptism.

As documented case history, the City Council of Zurich passed a legal decree in March, 1526. The edict commanded that those who immersed in water one that had confessed faith in Jesus Christ (rather than upholding the accepted church ordinance of the day: sprinkling all infants) were to be publicly executed by drowning. In a short span of time, the socially acceptable religious bodies of that day had murdered between four and five thousand men and women in this manner (p .269, Church History in Plain Language, Bruce L. Shelley).

While the atrocity of murder seems uncivilized and socially unacceptable in our day and time, our Master, Jesus Christ, said very clearly that the barriers and divisions and antagonism that mark the "christendom" of today is murder, as judged by the Heavenly Courts. This is true as absolutely as if we also literally murdered one-another by forcible drowning (Mt.5:21-24; 7:1-2; 12:7; Jas. 3:13-18; 1Jn.3:14-16; 4:20-21; Lk.10:29). That's really frightening, isn't it?

Is there an answer? Should we, or can we, allow the schisms that have characterized all of christian history to mar our unity and Fellowship with the Father and one another? Of course not. We have no desire, if we're honest and discerning, to face Him with our current divisions. Should we then compromise the Word of God to the lowest common denominator of "truth" to accommodate everyone that seems sincere enough? God forbid! In so doing, we would allow others to lose their souls by our careless or cowardly approach to the Word of God. That Word will judge every man impartially on the Last Day, regardless of our sincerity (Jn.12:48; 1Tim.4:1-2, 16; Mt.7:21; 2Tim.4:3).

What then can we do? On the subject of baptism, or any other subject in God's Word, we must in some respect view the subject from God's perspective, as one "seated with Christ in Heavenly Realms" with "the mind of Christ." The other alternative (seemingly the one exercised most frequently in history) is warring with words and an attorney's logic. This eliminates any chance whatsoever that we will truly understand the Word of the Lord. (See Mt.11:25-27; 1Cor.1:25-30, 2:9-16.)

Always the Challenge

Though you may feel as if you already understand biblical "baptism in water," in view of the fact that this subject is so important to Jesus, I would still plead with you to enter into the next few pages with a posture of true Wisdom: "Fear of the Lord." Pretend (as I attempt to in looking into any subject in the Word of God) that you have never previously considered the idea and just want to know what Almighty God (rather than man) has said regarding this important subject of baptism. Pretend that you are on a desert island and have never seen a Bible before, or heard of the idea of "church." Suddenly, the Creator of the Universe dropped a Book down to you and asked you to act on what He has to say about "baptism" in His Book. Will you do this, regardless of your previous position on the subject? Can you discipline your heart to do this, just one more time, no matter how well studied you may be? (If you can't look inside your own heart and say "Yes, I will honestly look at, and prayerfully consider these thoughts from the Scriptures without the eyeglasses of a predetermined viewpoint on baptism, then it would be best not to go on at this point. The temptation to peruse casually, or to use the time evaluating the author, rather than letting the Word evaluate us, will always be with us in such situations. Only the truly "good and honest hearts" will approach challenges in the Word in the way our Father intends—with teachable hearts. What a battle for us all!)

Having gotten to this point, it is my desperate prayer that the divisions and complexities that the "doctrines of men" have created (it surely is not our Father's fault!) can be in some measure diminished by God's great grace and whatever Truth you may find in these pages. In the remainder of this discussion would you give me the privilege of being very frank and to the point? I will have to trust you that you will not ask me to walk a tightrope of diplomacy and Dale Carnegie (I'm not very good at that kind of thing anyway). I do promise that I'll do my best to speak the Word of the Lord if you'll read on. I must do it, however, without apology to the myriad of "teachings" in the religious world today. Our God is a person, and therefore does not hold two contradictory opinions on any subject whatsoever. It really does matter to our Father (as you read in the previously listed verses of Scripture) what we believe and what we do. Will you resolve, as I truly hope that I have, that you will not pass from this life having forfeited any of the riches that He has held out to you, His child?

We can choose to forfeit His Best, and even salvation itself, by ignorance of His Word. Loss will also be suffered whenever laziness, procrastination, or defensiveness hinder our pursuit of that which would honor the God that died for us. So many have disobeyed the Living God due to potential consequences in their families or workplace or church. Please look to Heaven with a clear conscience and say "Yes! I'll follow You Jesus wherever you go, immediately, no matter what the cost!" Now, onward!

The Dilemma

In my experience in various parts of the religious world, it seems to me that some of us have overlooked the significance that the Word of God assigns to the subject of baptism. Why would a person with a good heart and a good understanding of the Word of God and the Good News of Jesus Christ overlook the heavy weight that God places on water Baptism every single time that He (God) mentions it? Usually it is because all of their lives most have been taught (wonderfully) that Salvation is by Faith and the Grace of God—and Baptism doesn't seem to fit in to this picture anywhere.

It is said, "If it is a 'work' necessary to be saved that is added to the work of the cross—it is surely optional and superfluous, no matter how good a thing it might be." While this is certainly true, without discernment, a delicate line can easily be crossed which leads down a path of denying Jesus by denying the immutability of His Word.

Others, meanwhile, in good conscience and an honest attempt to "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent" have moved in a direction that has deeply grieved our God. This has endangered true Fellowship with Jesus as a living Person. This school has viewed baptism as part of a formula for Salvation. In the process (though the place of these issues in the Scriptures is immense), we have raised up a generation of church-goers that have never known a living intimacy and vital, tangible friendship with Jesus. Though certainly no one would verbalize it as such, Jesus, in this environment, isn't the focal point of Salvation at all. He's really, objectively speaking, not even a "sixth step" along with "hear, believe, repent, confess and be baptized." He is, instead, thought to have taught us a recipe that would yield salvation if properly implemented, even down to the "magic words" that we say over the ceremony. If we pursue this course, Jesus died in order to leave us a formula for salvation and a rule book for living the "good christian life."

Unfortunately, when this view is embraced, the only true hope for true, "abundant Life" as a "new creation," with "rivers of living water gushing from his belly" and living in the "power of an indestructible life," in true, deep fellowship with the Creator of time and eternity is lost because we have never met, really met, Jesus from Nazareth. Some have embraced only a historical idea and doctrine, rather than a living friend. What a tragedy!

The living and active Word of the living and active God of the Word must be our source of wisdom and guidance in order to harmonize (without compromise) the seeming complexities of trusting absolutely "justification by Faith" with many other verses that may seem to require adding something to our Faith. How are we to understand: "Unless you Repent, you will all perish," and "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved." Is the verse "If you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" adding a "good work" (confessing literally and verbally with your mouth) to simple Faith as a basis of Justification by the Blood of Christ? (Rom.3:22-24, 10:9-10; Luke 13:3; Mk.16:16; Acts 2:38). Since "In the Beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God" was written before time and creation in the heart of the Eternal Godhead, it is well worth our while to penetrate deeply into every aspect of the Utterance of God recorded for us. Would you agree?

It seems reasonable that we should never relegate anything to a secondary place due to abuses perpetrated in the past. Right? What God says to us about any given subject we must hold precious and jealously guard. Make it your fervent quest to "let none of His Words fall to the ground" ...for as we penetrate deeper into the Word of God, we penetrate deeper into Eternal Divinity. "...and the Word was God."

Please do not, as you read this, make the mistake of letting the prejudices of the "empty traditions handed down by our forefathers" blind you to anything in His Word and Heart. There is so much that the Creator would desire us to comprehend more fully and respond to in Faith-filled obedience. Is that not the whole of the Christ-life, to walk in intimate fellowship with and obedience to "every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God?" (Jn.17:3-4; Jn.14:15-22; Deut.8:1-14; Mt.4:4). Please move on to the thoughts that follow with a "good and honest heart." (This is the only "good soil" according to Jesus: Lk.6:43-49; 8:8-15.) Approach the Word, always, with instant "on earth as it is in Heaven" obedience if it is truly the Word of the Lord. Do not consider ramifications. Do not ponder the cost of walking in the Truth of God and then procrastinate or dilute the Truth or your response to appease mere men. It cannot be worth it, under any circumstances. Agreed?!

Jesus in His Fullness and ALL of His Word

A principle worth remembering is, as the writer of Psalm 119 said (by the authority and inspiration of God), "The sum of Thy Word is Truth" (RV, NAS, verse 160). What that means is simply this: We cannot take a verse of scripture that says what we'd like it to say and camp out on that passage as if it is not part of an integral whole. The Person of Jesus Christ is "Truth" (John 14:6; 1:1). Nothing less than the entire Word, and the entire Person of Jesus of Nazareth should be held out as "Truth" on any given subject. It was readily seen in Jesus' day that the "experts in the Bible" did err,

“not knowing the scriptures or the power of God.” They continually accused the Author and the Personification of Truth of being “unscriptural.” Take a step back in awe before you pigeon-hole baptism as some trite religious nicety for goopy zealots. Try to understand all that God has to say and all that Jesus did (and “is”) about any given subject!

EXAMPLE: Suppose that I said to you, “You must receive nutrition or you will absolutely die.” You would agree that the truth stands as beyond debate (particularly if God had made a sovereign statement to this effect). While this statement is absolute in terms of its accuracy, it does not eliminate the mandatory nature of other elements, such as air and water.

APPLICATION: “The sum of Thy Word is Truth.” It is therefore fair to say that we may not take a verse such as “If you confess with your mouth that ‘Jesus is Lord’, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom.10:9) and call that verse the way unto salvation. Why? Because Jesus, our Lord said, “Unless you REPENT you will all perish” (Lk.13:3, 14:33). Since no one can at the same time perish and be saved (remember that “the sum of Thy Word is Truth”), it is absolutely necessary to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead and gave Him a Name above every Name.

Clearly, it is also necessary to literally speak out loud with your lips that you hereby declare publicly that you acknowledge what the Father has done in Jesus: He is Lord of Heaven and earth. Henceforth He will also be recognized Lord of every nook and cranny, ambition, fear, vice and thought in your life also.

It is also clear (“the sum of the Word is Truth”) that repentance (the change of mind and implementation in a practical, observable way of the new direction you are now taking) is just as mandatory for salvation! The first passage is fully true, yet so is the second passage fully true. We need to fully embrace all Scripture, not accept some and push some to the “back burner” because we don’t completely understand how to harmonize the two ideas.

If other things, such as baptism, were given similar weight in the heart and Word of God, they would be no less valid because these other things are true. Would you agree with this much?

EXAMPLE: Because we know that it is true, “You must eat food or you will absolutely die,” that is not to say, “If you eat food you will absolutely live.”

APPLICATION: We have already seen that “If you confess with your lips, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.” Yet, who more than Satan believes that God raised Jesus from the dead? It is not enough to believe this only! “Even the demons believe—and tremble! You foolish man, do you want evidence that faith without deeds is useless?” (Jas.2:19-26). Most that we say are “believers” don’t believe as much as the demons do. Few men that “go to church” have ever really “trembled” at the thought of approaching an all-powerful and Holy God. Most have been taught just to say a little prayer in order to go to Heaven. Since the demons believe enough to “tremble,” are they therefore saved? Of course not.

Let’s carry the analogy a step further. The confession with the lips that “Jesus is Lord” is apparently not a free ticket into salvation, in and of itself, either. Jesus Himself said, “Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord did we not prophesy in Your Name, and in Your Name drive out demons, and perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me you evil doers! You did not do the will of my Father.’” (Mt. 7:21-23). To say with your lips “Jesus is Lord” isn’t the end of the road, is it? And obviously they believed God raised Jesus from the dead—they even performed miracles and cast out demons in His Name! While the Word of God is inspired and therefore confession of “Jesus is Lord” with the lips is mandatory, it is obviously not sufficient in itself to guarantee salvation. “The sum of the Word is Truth.”

What IS Water Baptism, According to God?

With that as a backdrop, let’s look without prejudiced or preconceived ideas at what the Bible, the heart of God, is on Baptism. We mustn’t, of course, eliminate or minimize the other expressions of approaching God through faith in Christ alone, but understand God’s heart and penetrate into what HE means when He speaks of “faith”.

On the next page, you will find a listing of every single time that God used the word “baptism” in His Word. If you are serious in understanding what God has to say about this, I know that you’ll find it greatly rewarding and enlightening to look up each of the references our God has made to water baptism. Look at His Word about this subject in the teaching of Jesus and His Apostles, and in the Book of Acts (where God was gracious enough to give us living examples of men walking in this teaching). The two (the teaching and the example) correspond, as we might imagine that they would. If you wanted to know everything that an encyclopedia has to say about “Relativity,” you wouldn’t look under “skydiving

.Â” Nor would you try to understand GodÂ’s view of money by looking at JesusÂ’s teaching about divorce. It is also safe to say that the best way to learn of the mind of your Creator on baptism is to read each of the times our God (Who wastes no words) presents to us His thoughts on the matter.

Please read each reference. Honestly write down (as a child, in simplicity, without straining to apply some high and lofty denominational doctrine to it!) the weight that the Father has assigned to Â”water baptism.Â” Now if you believe exactly that (which Jesus, and the men of God that knew Him, had to say about water baptism), and tell others exactly thatÂ—yo u are not far from the Kingdom. I wouldnÂ’t dare teach anything about baptism that gives it less value than these passages, would you?

Baptize, Baptized, Baptizing, Baptism

Matthew 3:1, 3:6, 3:7, 3:13, 3:11, 3:14, 3:16, 11:1, 11:12, 14:2, 14:8, 16:14, 17:13, 20:22, 20:23, 21:25, 28:19

Mark 1:4, 1:5, 1:8, 1:9, 10:38, 10:39, 11:30, 16:16

Luke 3:3, 3:7, 3:12, 3:16, 3:21, 7:29, 7:30, 12:50, 20:4

John 1:25, 1:26, 1:28, 1:31, 1:33, 3:22, 3:23, 3:26, 4:1, 4:2, 10:40

Acts 1:5, 1:22, 2:38, 2:41, 8:12, 8:13, 8:16, 8:36, 8:38, 9:18, 10:37, 10:47, 10:48, 11:16, 13:24, 16:15, 16:33, 18:8, 18:25, 19:3, 19:4, 19:5, 22:16

Romans 6:3, 6:4

1Corinthians 1:13, 1:14, 1:15, 1:16, 1:17, 10:2, 12:13, 15:29

Galatians 3:27

Ephesians 4:5

Colossians 2:12

Hebrews 6:2

1 Peter 3:21

There is absolutely no possibility that one could read what the Bible has to say about it and conclude that it is simply a ritual or symbol to obey because Â”Jesus said so.Â” Nor is the significance of baptism limited to the example of Jesus Himself being immersed in water. It is not simply a way to Â”place membershipÂ” at a local church. It is not just a horizontal Â”outward act.Â” At least that is not the way Jesus, Paul, Peter, John, Luke, and the men we can trust saw it! All of the folks we read about in the Bible, under apostolic teaching, that saw the opportunity of being immersed in water did so immediately, even after midnight! There was nothing in any of them that wanted to debate the issue or wait until Â”Baptism Sunday!Â” They saw something that todayÂ’s religious world often has overlooked about GodÂ’s Heart in water baptism

Is it a Â”command?Â” Jesus did, we all know, Â”say so.Â” Specifically, Â”He that believes and is baptized shall be saved Â” and Â”Go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey all things I have commanded youÂ” (Mk.16:16; Mt.28:18-20). And, you surely agree, that the reigning King of the Universe Â”said soÂ” is more than sufficient cause for anyone who has not been immersed in water to respond to His command.

ShouldnÂ’t we all eagerly pursue all that God has for us? Remember the Treasurer of the nation of Ethiopia who responded to the teaching about Jesus (Acts 8) with, Â”Here is water, what hinders me from being baptized?!Â” Certainly 100% of those that really love Jesus will Â”keep His commandsÂ” (Jn.14:15) without rationalizing. If you are a devoted follower of Jesus, or are ready to become one, and are not in ChristÂ’s ultimate Will and have not been immersed in water to this point, you can (and should) quickly find a Disciple to immerse you, even it is after midnight when you read this.

That would be a response made in Â”good company.Â” Recall the man who was the apostle PaulÂ’s guard in the jail cell

in Philippi. He gave his life to Christ and was immediately baptized (Acts 16:33)—at probably 1:00 AM, not the next month, or three years later! The men and woman that heard the teaching about Jesus, and the response that God called for, were all seemingly very convinced at the urgency of response to the Good News about Jesus. We must also, if we are responding to the same Jesus and the same Gospel that they heard.

Even beyond that, no one could honestly read only what the Word of God has to say about baptism (as if on a desert island and without preconceived ideas) and conclude that it is simply a visible ritual to compliment the religious life, or to join a local church roll. If you have read the attached complete list of verses in context, you must be impressed as I was at the awesome weight that God attaches to “baptism”/“baptizein, baptisma” (“immersion” is the Greek word that God selected) every time He mentions it. At no time is the idea of baptism in water, immersion of a person who has given his life to Jesus Christ, ever referred to, or treated by anyone in the Bible, as an optional symbol. It mustn’t be done at one’s leisure (or skipped entirely), or be done by sprinkling.

(God could have used the words “ballo” or “rhantizo” if He had meant them to be baptized by “pouring” or “sprinkling.” One could say that baptizo and the associated words for “baptism” may include “pouring, until totally saturated” based on certain references related to the Holy Spirit “outpouring”—though certainly never would the word baptism mean “sprinkled.”)

I know, fellow pilgrims, that God is not a tyrant that is looking to smoke anyone who does not line up with every “jot and tittle.” Yet I also know how presumptuous it is of mere men such as you and I to trifle with the Eternal Word that “was with God and was God!” Agreed? And the blessings that we forfeit by not penetrating fully into His Will for us! I want everything that He wants for me. I crave to “apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.” Surely that is no less than we owe the God who gave His Son to die for us.

Additionally, you must not be “yoked” to, be a member of, a Christian group that would persist in denying or rationalizing away what our One Lord has clearly said about this or any other subject. Our lives must be joined only to those that really love Him enough to obey Him from the heart every time they learn something new, regardless of the consequences. There is no time to waste!

Consider these examples:

1. (Acts 2:36-41) A multitude were “cut to the heart” and asked what to do to be saved. Would you have a different answer than an apostle who was “filled with the Holy Spirit?” If someone asks me: “What must I do?” I dare say I am not going to answer as men often do today “Bow your heads and ask Jesus to come into your heart to be your personal Savior.” Nowhere in the Bible is the “Sinner’s prayer” (or sprinkling of an infant) given as the hope of salvation.

The majority of popular teaching makes Jesus out to be a wishy-washy “do me a favor” kind of “savior,” rather than the Infinite and Immortal Creator of the galaxies. If we really “see Him Who is invisible,” we bow our knee to Him, in reverence and sorrow that we were the cause of His death when He walked among us. And we “follow the Lamb wherever He goes” because He is a great and mighty King over all of the heavens and the earth.

To demonstrate that the popular view of “conversion” just mentioned cannot be correct, look at the multitude of conversions that occur in the New Testament church record. Not even one time is anyone asked to say a “sinner’s prayer” and invite Jesus into their heart. In light of that fact, how could we, even one more time, dare to answer the question “What must I do to be saved?” with an answer like that? (Remember—you gave me the permission to be frank with you early on in this discussion. Don’t get upset now—just see if these things are true. Can you find even one example of “asking Jesus to come into one’s heart and be their personal Savior?”)

Personally, when asked what a person “must do to be saved” I’ve got to answer, at least within the conversation somewhere, like the inspired Apostle Peter did: “Repent and be immersed everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ.” Why, Peter? “So that your sins may be forgiven.” No matter how you translate it, what a great reason to repent and be immersed!

Peter went on to warn them and plead with them to “save themselves” (vs. 40), and “those who accepted his message were immersed”—3,000 of them heard the message of Jesus and were baptized and added to the number of disciples (vs. 41). How would you or I be added to the number of disciples in some other manner? Let’s give Peter’s (therefore God’s) answer when someone asks us “What must I do to be saved?” It may not be popular with the denominations that teach something else, but no one can deny that it is the answer that the inspired, spirit-filled apostle gave wh

When he was asked that question. Only if you go with that will you be on God's ground.

2. (Acts 8:26-39). Philip, the evangelist, was told by an angel to go to the road to Gaza, a city near Egypt. He explained to a high-ranking official from Ethiopia "the Good News about Jesus" (vs. 35). The man's immediate response to whatever Philip taught him about Jesus was "Look—here's water. What hinders me from being immersed?" He ordered the chariot to stop. Both Philip and the man went down into the water and Philip immersed him (vs. 36-39).

It seems clear to me that whatever I teach as the "good news about Jesus" had better include something that inspires the one I'm teaching to say: "Look, here's water. Why can't I be baptized right now?!" Does your message about Jesus inspire that question? Please! It must!

3. (Mark 16:15-16, Matthew 28:18-20). The last words that a man speaks before he departs are always carefully chosen, aren't they? The Son of God issued a command to make disciples of all nations, immerse them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and then teach them to obey all of the commands of God. These were amongst His last words before He left this earth to ascend back into Heaven. Ask Jesus why a person should be baptized, and He'll answer this way every time, "He that believes and is baptized, immersed, shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

He states at the end of that verse that believing on Him ("putting our full weight on Him," in absolute trust) is the foundation. Baptism is just "getting wet" without our faith in Him.

How it must grieve the Father when even a single person is taught in such a way as to cause them to depend on a "formula." Or to depend on a "church" that claims to have all the "biblical" answers. Oh, please! Turn to a living friend named Jesus that "was dead, and behold! is alive forever and ever!" What a heartache that must be to the Father that He gave the very life of His Son to purchase men back from a well-deserved and certain death, and some have the ignorance or audacity to make a doctrine out of a Person. The "Way of Salvation" is a PERSON, and a friendship with Him. There is no other salvation available! (Jn. 17:3; 14:6; 7:39-40; 2Cor. 13:14; 2Cor. 3:16-18; Rom. 10:13) There is no single issue in all of a man's span of life in this realm that is more crucial to understand and stand upon with unwavering conviction. Our God can only be pleased with a People that approach Him solely on the basis of Jesus as their "all in all" and only access to His Glorious presence.

Even so! Our Lord Jesus did not stutter—He meant what He said. Man says: "He that believes and is saved shall be baptized." Did you catch the order that man has worded this? Man says: "He that believes and is saved shall be baptized."

Christ says it in a drastically different way. The Son of the Living God said: "He that believes and is baptized—that man has salvation." Not "either/or" at some man's discretion. I'm not going to trifle with God by re-arranging His words. I will "believe and be baptized" as the Lord taught.

If this is intimidating you, or making you angry or defensive, that is surely not my intention. I am trying to state everything in terms that are extremely clear, even if to the point of overstating something, in order that all of this cannot be overlooked or forgotten! We must together "abide in His Word" rather than the traditions of men. OK? All of His disciples "hear Him gladly" and "hang on every word that He says"—without compromise, or furious rifling through Bible pages to "prove" that Jesus didn't mean what He said. Let's just believe Him and obey Him together in peace.

You must see by now that though many do, unfortunately, rely on a form and "works" to justify themselves before the Father, whatever the scriptures say (about baptism in water, or anything else) is the Father's application of the gift to us of His Son. It is not something "in addition" to His Beloved Son...it is His Son, the Word.

4. (1 Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3-5). The Apostle Peter, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, makes this bold, unthinkable statement: "Baptism saves you." To say that it has nothing to do with salvation would put you in opposition to Peter and the Holy Scriptures—not a good position to try to defend on the judgment day. The question is not "whether or not," but rather "how" it saves you.

Certainly we know that the blood that was poured out during the scourgings and ultimately on the cross is the only hope that any of us have. It is very obvious that some "good work" can never justify us before the Eternal God—only the death and resurrection of the Only Begotten Son. So how can Peter (by the Holy Spirit) make such radical statements as "Baptism saves you" and "Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins" and "save yourselves?"

The correct way to handle the Word of God is not to pretend that Peter never said these things because, after all, we know that the atonement of Jesus is what saves us—period. Remember, it was Jesus who said: “He that believes and is baptized—that person shall be saved” (Mk. 16:16). Jesus, through Peter, said “Repent and be baptized” and “baptism saves you” (Acts 2:38; 1Pet.3:21).

It says what it says—no man has the right to ignore it or try to alter it. God is intelligent enough to “get it right.” Therefore, our job is to understand “baptism saves you” in light of the work of Jesus—not pretend that it’s not there because of the atoning work of Jesus.

Let me say that again. God said what He meant and meant what He said. We know the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus “saves us”—not our “works.” That is an absolute. However, if God Himself said “Baptism saves you” and “Repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins” and “He that believes and is baptized shall be saved”—these things are also absolutes. Our job is not to “write these off” as “surely just not so.” Our job is to understand how these things are tied into the work of Jesus. “Understand them in light of the work of Jesus, not pretend that they’re not there because of the work of Jesus.” Do you see? “All scripture is God-breathed.”

Peter goes on to explain how baptism saves us (it is a fact from God that somehow it’s involved). Baptism is not washing away dirt from the physical body, it is not “getting wet,” taking a bath. It is the “crying out of a good conscience towards God”—repentance and faith in Jesus expressed physically. It “saves you” (Peter reaffirms in case we missed it), “it saves you by the resurrection of Jesus.” Aha! The link between this strange thing of “immersion in water” and Jesus of Nazareth.

Paul explains the connection between repentance, baptism and “the resurrection of Jesus” for us in Romans 6:3-5. Here the Holy Word says clearly that “If we’ve been united with Him in death, we will certainly also be united with Him in His resurrection.” Sounds great. It is conditional, however, on being “united with Him in His death.” How does that happen, Paul? “We were, therefore, buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead we too may walk in newness of life.” The Word of God says clearly that we die to our sins (repentance), bury them, immerse them in baptism, and rise to walk in “newness of life.” Literally “born again”—of water and the Spirit. Literally “having our bodies washed with pure water,” “saved by the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” Submitting ourselves that we may face Him having “washed our robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb,” having “clothed ourselves with Christ in baptism” (John 3:5, Heb. 10:22, Titus 3:5, Rev. 7:13-14, Gal. 3:26-27).

Most would agree that there is no disagreement between the all-sufficiency of the blood of Jesus Christ and the necessity of confessing with your mouth “Jesus is Lord.” We agree it is simply an outward expression of our faith—that the Bible says is mandatory, or the Faith was not truly Faith. Likewise, there is no disagreement between the all-sufficiency of the blood of Jesus and the absolute necessity of “repenting of acts that lead to death.” Repentance is essential. Jesus said clearly: “Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.” No man will go to heaven without repenting of his sins, changing his mind about what life is about. As Peter said, if you want to be saved, you must “repent and be baptized” (Heb. 6:1, Luke 13:3, Acts 17:30, Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19-23). Certainly repentance is nothing more and nothing less than an expression of our faith in Jesus, “placing our full weight on Jesus.” Repentance on our part is mandatory for our salvation and yet in no way minimizes what Jesus accomplished at Calvary. It is simply our expression of true faith.

Satan, “the father of lies,” would have you read all of these crystal clear teachings from Jesus Himself, as well as other words of the Holy Spirit, and push them out of your mind as “insignificant” or “legalism” or something worse. Before you fall prey to that, I beg you again to go back to the words of Almighty God and forget everything you’ve ever been taught in the religious world about baptism. In the fresh, exciting days of the New Church of the Book of Acts (a world unadulterated by various “kinds” of “christendom”), there is no record of any confusion about this at all! Let’s go back to that simplicity, please! What does God say it is for? Does God assign value to it other than a “simple act of obedience”? The only One who was immersed as a “simple act of obedience” (“to fulfill all righteousness”) was Jesus Christ. (Matthew 3:13-17). Surely even one verse would be sufficient to prompt a true Believer to act immediately to be immersed in water?

5. Again, as we have touched on previously, there was at no time an occasion in the Word of God where something other than immersion (such as sprinkling or pouring) was ever commanded or done as an example of “the method is unimportant,” as some teach today. And, in fact, there is an example of Paul reimmersing twelve men that had already been immersed, but with an incomplete Faith. (Acts 18:24, Acts 19:9). Think about it. Is it really worth rolling dice with your relationship with God to protect your pride?

6. Also, never was an infant immersed (baptized) in any instance in the Holy Word. There are no infants at all found amongst those baptized in the Scriptures, though many children were in the company of those that followed Jesus. Since the prerequisite (according to the Bible) for baptism is to believe and repent—an infant could not possibly have been Biblically baptized. And the examples in the book of Acts certainly do not show anything of the kind. If that is what Jesus and the apostles had taught (that infants were to be baptized) we would see long lines of children to be baptized forming in the book of Acts, the historical record. Rather, “Those who believed his message (about Jesus as the Savior and the Lord of Heaven and Earth) were immersed, and about three thousand were added to their number that day” (Acts 2:41). As for the children, the truth is that Jesus said that “you must become like a little child” in order to go to heaven. The children are just fine (as can be demonstrated with a number of other scriptures) without a religious ritual that we might do on their behalf. Any infant that can be “cut to the heart,” repent, put their full weight on Jesus and “call on the name of the Lord” is a candidate for baptism.

7. Probably an example that will be helpful as you make your decision to risk that opposition of the religious world (it seems that Jesus had that problem too!) to be immersed in water, a helpful illustration, might be the conversion of the Apostle Paul.

In Acts 9:1-9 Saul/Paul saw Jesus Christ as a glorious light. He was blinded and cried out “Who are you, Lord?” The answer was: “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.” Paul knew He was “Lord”—it seemed rather obvious at the time. He certainly believed Him to be the Son of God and obviously raised from the dead at this point. He fasted penitently without food or water for three full days. By anyone’s definition, of all people, Paul “believed” at this point. Paul recognized Him as the indisputable “Lord” and called Him so with his mouth. Surely he’s a Christian—because he believed in Jesus. Virtually no religious group around would consider a man with that kind of experience and faith as yet an “unbeliever.” True? Ask your “preacher.” Virtually none would consider any man with this testimony a non-Christian.

Later, in Acts 22:6-16, Paul is retelling the story of his conversion to a crowd of unbelievers. Paul says that God sent Ananias to him to tell him what he must do. Paul quotes Ananias (by the Holy Spirit’s words) as saying “Saul—what one are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized (immersed) washing away your sins, calling on His Name!” He was not yet a Christian! Note this carefully: A man can believe with all his heart that Jesus is risen from the dead. He can know for sure that Jesus is Lord. He can even fast and pray for his sins for three days—AND NOT BE A CHRISTIAN. Some of you may fall into that category...still a non-Christian, though you have had possibly years of christian experience.

Paul believed. He confessed the Lordship of the Risen One with his lips. And yet his sins were not washed away (according to God Himself). He was not a Christian—He was still in his sins, even though he had actually seen Jesus and called Him “Lord.” “Saul—what one are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized (immersed) washing away your sins, calling on His Name!” As Jesus Himself said: “Not all who confess with their mouth ‘Lord, Lord’ will go to heaven” (Matthew 7:21-23). Please drop all prejudice or defensiveness and reconsider! It surely can’t be worth being wrong, even for the sake of pride or family. The stakes are too high!

And now the key question of all of this:
At What Instant Is A Person Saved?

The primary reason that all of this seems to be so traumatic is that man has taken apart the act of making covenant with his God and disassembled it in a way that God never intended. Man has wrecked the simplicity of entering into a Marriage Covenant with Jesus Christ in such a way that only God’s Spirit can interpret and apply the Truths previously mentioned to the jumbled mess of a splintered christendom today, and show us what to do next.

The question of “when” a person actually “becomes” a Christian in a “technical” way is a question that reveals the misunderstanding of the one who asked it of the nature of Salvation itself. Being “born of God” will never be of “natural descent, of human decision, or of a husband’s will”—to our dismay and God’s Glory. “Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is a New Creation.” I mean to say (by inserting these verses here) that meeting the Person of Jesus Christ, having an encounter with a Resurrected Lord, and being therefore “translated from the Kingdom of Darkness to the Kingdom of the Beloved Son” will never happen by knowing all of the technical verses about it. It is either an encounter with the Living Godhead, personally, and truly—or it is a counterfeit. The technicalities are not the issue. God has a habit of blowing up our great cerebral achievements anyway, historically speaking. (For example, Jn.7:45-52; Acts 2:13-16; 10:44-11:18; etc.)

A close friend of mine came in from out of state a few years ago to be married in her home town. In all of the excitement,

she and her spouse-to-be had forgotten to get the blood tests and the marriage license. Now, the State has a "book" that spells out what it takes to be legitimately married, and they had taken some liberties due to this "oversight". Because the sequence of the "book" had been violated, a big problem had resulted. At what point are they married? Is it at the moment the preacher says "I now pronounce you man and wife?" Well, maybe not, since there was no "authority invested in him by the State" to perform the ceremony without a license. The governor of the State would be positive that they were not married after the church ceremony. Well, though, doesn't the heart, the intent, count for anything? Is it marriage when "a man shall leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife" as a "heart" issue, or is there a need to obey the laws of the land? The preacher, and the State, reached different conclusions. Or is it marriage when it is consummated in the act of the "two becoming one flesh?" What about the soldier boy that gets whisked away overseas before the two physically come together? In all fifty states an annulment ("a judicial declaration that no valid marriage ever existed between the two parties in question") can be declared in situations where the marriage is never "consummated." Were they ever married? At what instant are they married? Is it when the license is filled out that the marriage is truly a marriage? But wait! If the license isn't mailed in a certain period of time, the marriage is invalid. Or is it? As you can see, all of the trauma of "at what instant is a person married" only even becomes a question when the "rule book" is violated. But, oh what a problem! Can you go on a \$100.00/night honeymoon that has already been paid for, or not? Would you be in bed with someone who you are not married to, since no one with "authority invested in him" to perform the ceremony had yet joined them? What a trauma.

And likewise, AT WHAT INSTANT IS A PERSON SAVED? Only because of man's ignoring God's Ways has the question even come up! If we would instantly "at midnight" respond to the teaching about Jesus with "here's water, what hinders me from being baptized?" we would never have to ask "at what instant," in the midst of "calling on the Name of the Lord," is the person saved. It is a ridiculous question and unnecessary if we respond (as the now-married couple wished they had) out of the Truth and harmony and Spirit of the Word of God. If man had not confused the whole issue by fooling with the making of a "covenant" with God (by separating the giving of one's life to Jesus, from repentance, and from baptism by weeks or months or years) there would be no such questions about "at what instant is a person saved" ever raised. Again, we have created the dilemma by breaking the covenant-making experience into little pieces and separating them by time, as was absolutely never the teaching or the case in the Scriptures.

The illustration previously offered, "at exactly what instant is a couple married," cannot be fully resolved. Nor can this more Eternal issue. Cry out to Him! Get on your knees and appeal to Him from a good and sincere heart to translate your life from the corruptible to the Eternal. Tell Jesus of your selfishness, your self-indulgence, your pride and ask Him for a new heart. Our response to His love for us is to offer all at once to Him, as a sonnet of our love and thanksgiving. Put the "Ring" of water baptism on as a seal of the Covenant. Let the Lord of Hosts baptize you in His Spirit.

In summary, we get ourselves in a fix the moment we elect to separate the Marriage consummation in a technical way, rather than simply plunging into the whole counsel and love and promises of God. If we elect to follow men's denominational traditions instead of God's Ways, from then on we must "pound a square peg into a round hole" in our attempt to answer questions on these subjects. Let's simply respond as God has called us to respond. Let's all have the honesty and guts and humility to swim upstream against what we've thought (or even taught) and tell others that are followers of Jesus or anxious to become so, the truth about WHAT GOD SAYS ABOUT WATER BAPTISM. It is a very freeing alternative! And an urgent matter...

And of course it's tough! Our battle is not with flesh and blood and merely "understanding" of Bible verses, but with principalities and powers, according to Paul. If God values anything, Satan will desperately try to soft-sell or pervert it! While in western India, some brothers and I discovered how true this is. There, to tell those in your village (or those in law enforcement) that you are a Christian will seldom have consequences. Yet to be baptized will result in being severely ostracized and often imprisoned.

Another man, once a Jewish atheist, and now a teacher of the Truth of God in Jesus Christ on several continents, adds his testimony to this. He also has seen what seems to be supernatural opposition to baptism in water that goes beyond logic. He has seen again and again those of his own Jewish heritage telling their families and their rabbi that they believe that Jesus, Yeshua, is the Messiah and that they have given their lives to Him. This, he says, is often met with "That's nice." But when they say they have been baptized in water, great and violent fury and disinheritance takes place almost inevitably. Frequently an actual funeral is held for the baptized Believer.

No doubt you too will suffer the retribution of Satan and prideful, fearful men as you respond to the Truths of God's Word about baptism. It is a privilege. Count it all joy, and don't shrink back, procrastinate, or compromise one tiny bit. If you follow Jesus in Truth, you will always leave all to do so (Luke 9:57-62, 14:33)!

A few beautiful pictures, before we part, might show us something of God's heart in calling us to be immersed in water. In 1 Corinthians, chapter 10, God gives us the picture of the baptism into the sea and the cloud (water and the Holy Spirit, John 3:5, Acts 2:38, Titus 3:5). This is representative of our victory over all of the enemies of God. The armies of bondage and ("Egyptian") slavery to selfishness, lust and the world system gallop after us when we choose to give our lives to our Savior and Lord. These are DROWNED under the ocean of God's grace, just as they were in the Red Sea.

This is water baptism's purpose—to drown our enemies and God's enemies, amazingly, both in type and in reality! If you can explain how the Lord's Supper is both symbolic and supernatural at the same time (1Cor.11:29-30; 10:16-22; Jn.6:53), then you've got a shot at understanding this!

A similar picture is in Romans 6. Here, we have made a covenant with God to die to sin (repentance) and that sin is then buried under the water of baptism. We now rise to walk in newness of life. If we've been buried in baptism, we'll rise in the same resurrection life that He rose into (vs. 5). Sounds good to me!

In 1 Peter 3, God paints for us the picture of all of the mountaintops of our sins being forever buried under the water of baptism. As surely as the wickedness of Noah's day was totally immersed, our corruption in the "old man" is buried with Christ. Then, the dove brought back an olive branch representing a whole new world, a "new creation!" In Him, if we're truly converted, we "Taste the Powers of the coming Age." In Him, we receive a "downpayment guaranteeing our inheritance," the Holy Spirit of Almighty God filling us with the Life of the Eternal Kingdom, and the Ages to come! (Read prayerfully Eph.1:13-14, 18-20; Rom.8:9-11; Acts 2:38-39; Jn.3:5,8; Ezek.36:24-27; Jer.31:31-34; Heb.6:5; Jn.17:22, 7:38-39). This is just simple, fundamental, undeniable, biblical christianity. What a joy! Thank your God for this opportunity!

In Galatians 3, Paul states that our Sonship, our Faith and Baptism are all inseparable. The picture is given by God that as we are baptized, we are "clothed" with God's precious Son, Jesus. From this moment on, He sees only Jesus (as we've "hidden our life" in Him) when He looks down on us.

Now, if you have "ears to hear," you have been given a very clear opportunity to see, understand and obey the Lord Jesus Christ on this matter of immersion in water. I don't claim to understand everything about the subject of Baptism. Not at all. I can only pray, along with you and an army of others, that God will shed Light on this in the days to come that all of us might be fully equipped for battle with our only real enemy, the devil. I must say that if you have not yet been immersed in water, and you truly desire to fully walk with your Lord, you now have more than enough cause to lose a lot of sleep until you have prayerfully yielded yourself to all that God has held out for you.

Almost always, the battle is not waged against "what the Bible says about baptism," per se. Here's an observation that you can test against your own heart. Nearly always the one who refuses immersion in water is in one of two situations. Either they have never been shown God's heart about it in the Word of God, or he or she has never truly repented of their fears and desires for the world's goodies or men's approval. Baptism itself is seldom the hangup.

Are you ready to "eagerly accept the good news about Jesus," surrender your life to Him and cry out "Here's water. What are we waiting for?" As the song goes, "I only want to see you there!" Let's go all the Way, my friends and brothers.

<http://www.allathisfeet.com/indexg.html?gclid=CIOnrK6LxYoCFQRDYQod2EBfhw>

Re:, on: 2007/10/16 11:11

PS-

some peoples theology would have called for Jesus to command that a bucket of water be thrown on the thief on the cross so he could be baptized and so be "saved"...

Before you say this is not so because it is under the old covenant, please read Hebrews 10 & 11. All men that have ever been saved, have been saved by God's grace through faith in the Christ. Either the type and foreshadow or the revealed Christ. (Including the thief on the cross.)

Let us be careful that in our desire to uphold the command of baptism that we do not diminish the sacrifice made once and for all, from Abraham to the thief.

I would like to hear how you believe that the thief was saved...

In Christ - Jim

Re: - posted by BlazedbyGod, on: 2007/10/16 11:26

Quote:

jimdid2sin wrote:
PS-

some peoples theology would have called for Jesus to command that a bucket of water be thrown on the thief on the cross so he could be baptized and so be "saved"...

Before you say this is not so because it is under the old covenant, please read Hebrews 10 & 11. All men that have ever been saved, have been saved by God's grace through faith in the Christ. Either the type and foreshadow or the revealed Christ. (Including the thief on the cross.)

Let us be careful that in our desire to uphold the command of baptism that we do not diminish the sacrifice made once and for all, from Abraham to the thief.

I would like to hear how you believe that the thief was saved...

In Christ - Jim

Jesus never gave the apostles the command to baptize UNTIL AFTER his resurrection-thus at that point, the thief had already been dead for 40 days.

Remember Jesus gives the command to baptize at the Great Commission-the thief never lived to that point. The Disciples themselves did not baptize anyone until the book of Acts, just the same as he never preached him as Lord & Christ until the book of Acts.

Also, we must also remember that Christ said of the thief "to day shalt thou be with me in paradise"..

We must remember that Christ went to the heart of the earth FIRST for the 3 days and 3 nights-before he ascended he descended. And yes, when he descended the thief was with him, in paradise even as He said he would be.

Trust me, I know the thief was not baptized-neither was he filled with the Holy Ghost-which the Bible says if a man does not have the Holy Ghost HE DOES NOT BELONG TO CHRIST.

But what I am saying is the thief was before any of this was possible-Please understand, I am not saying Old Testament saints had to be baptized-I never said that. I only said and referred to New Testament believers.

Re:, on: 2007/10/16 12:16

Quote:
-----Remember Jesus gives the command to baptize at the Great Commission-the thief never lived to that point. The Disciples themselves did not baptize anyone until the book of Acts, just the same as he never preached him as Lord & Christ until the book of Acts.

Your ignorance of the Word of God makes your folly in this matter manifest to all:

When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples) -John 4:1-2

This shows us that one, the Apostles baptised, and two, this was before the Great Commission was ever given. This was before the book of Acts. Before you make such statements, you may want to actually make sure they are scriptural. Baptism was largely in practice during Jesus' time on earth, even among Jews who would baptize gentile converts to Judaism.

sm. John the baptist baptized people, and Jesus' disciples baptized people.

Further, you fail to distinguish between receiving a measure of the Spirit at conversion (which appropriates the new birth) and receiving the fullness of the Spirit via the baptism of the Holy Ghost which was first poured out at Pentecost (which appropriates power from on high to do the work of ministry). As was already said, John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit from his mother's womb, but never had the baptism of the Spirit. This shows us once again you are in error, dear friend. I encourage you to take a break, study the scriptures, pray for understanding, and stop promoting lies in the name of truth.

Baptism is important, and it is commanded by God upon repentance and faith in Christ, but to say it remits sins is to take on the heresy of the Roman Catholic harlot that preaches baptismal regeneration. This is the heresy that causes people to start sprinkling poor little babies with water in order to remit the sins they are born with. You do not suggest this as well, do you? You are not a Roman Catholic, are you?

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/10/16 13:25

Israel was baptized. But oh wait... they didn't even get wet. Baptized without getting wet? What does that do to our thinking that baptism always means dipping in water?

1Cr 10:2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

Re:, on: 2007/10/16 14:02

I am a firm believer that there is only one way to baptise a christian and that is by immersion. The reason is that immersion (going under the water) is symbolic of death to the old self and coming up from under the water newness of life. That is the message that you give to the world while you are being baptized and it should be made public if possible.

That is your testimony and it's also a way of sharing your faith for the first time which is very important for a new christian.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/10/16 16:43

Quote:
-----I am a firm believer that there is only one way to baptise a christian and that is by immersion. The reason is that immersion (going under the water) is symbolic of death to the old self and coming up from under the water newness of life. That is the message that you give to the world while you are being baptized and it should be made public if possible.

That is your testimony and it's also a way of sharing your faith for the first time which is very important for a new christian.

I agree. When we baptize someone in water, it should be immersion. My point is that unless it specifically says "in water" when referring to baptism, we need to think about it. When the Bible uses the word "baptism" it doesn't mean "to put in to water" by default. We need to examine the context of it. It can mean that, but not always.

The word baptism doesn't mean "to immerse in water" any more than the word car means "to drive down I-40."

You can baptize in water and you can drive a car down I-40, but no more than the word car always means to drive down I-40 the word baptism doesn't always mean to immerse in water.

Re: - posted by PreachParsly (), on: 2007/10/16 16:51

(<http://www.mybiblebase.com/pdfs/RonBailey/otbaptisms.pdf>) The Old Testament's Hidden Baptisms is a great article.

Re:, on: 2007/10/16 19:12

Amen, I didn't understand water baptism till I understood death to self and newness of life. New believers should be taught when they are water baptized right away. Water baptism means that you have forsaken sin and your old man. You are now a new creature created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/10/17 0:28

preachparsley, Thanks for the link i read it twice and plan to study this.

...David

Re:, on: 2007/10/17 0:29

Quote:
-----Amen, I didn't understand water baptism till I understood death to self and newness of life. New believers should be taught when they are water baptized right away. Water baptism means that you have forsaken sin and your old man. You are now a new creature created in Christ Jesus unto good works.

Speaking of baptism, and of death to the old man and resurrection to new life, here is a very encouraging video from our street ministry in LA featuring a couple of public baptisms right on the streets of skid row. Brother Patrick preaches about the meaning of baptism and about death to self: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=AfWY-fjggnA>

Re: - posted by psalm1, on: 2007/10/17 0:41

Josef, That was awesome! It looked like John the b. was baptising her!

...David

Re: - posted by running2win (), on: 2007/10/17 20:26

Quote:
-----When it came to the Gentiles, God had to give them the Holy Ghost first by his divine power-this is why as Peter was preaching, the Holy Ghost just fell on them without Peter even laying hands....God had to do it this way to the Gentiles, because if not, there would have been no way that the disciples would have water baptized Gentiles- Peter knew they were granted repentance by the fact that the Holy Ghost fell on them-then he knew, that, as scripture says, "repentance was granted unto them" thus it was now that they could be baptized with water.

BlazdbyGod,

this is nothing more than speculation. It sounds very conceivable but it's all reasoning and there's no way that you can take a strong stance saying that "this is exactly why it had to happen that way."

Re: - posted by Isaiah64, on: 2007/10/17 21:54

BlazdbyGod, may I recommend a few messages to you? Go to (http://www.lakeroadchapel.org/LR_MediaMinistry.htm) to his page and listen to both parts of the last two sermons on the page--Justification and Regeneration. It may help you understand these basic doctrines.

Re:, on: 2007/10/17 22:55

Praise God Joseph! That's the way baptism should be and the way it should be preached too! :)

Re: - posted by john1140 (), on: 2007/10/18 12:12

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I just wanted to say thank you for ALL (whew)of the insight presented. I posted the question because as I am studying the word myself, (and not relying so much on the revelation of other people) I'm finding that much of what I've learned is not scriptural at all, but something that is based on pride, elitism, greed, superstition, I could go on... I feel like I am learning about God for the first time, which is wonderful but sometimes disheartening as I think about the years I lived in deception.

I was baptized in the name of the Father, Son & Holy Spirit when I was 16 years old, and am comfortable with the way that I was baptized. If in fact the fullness of the Godhead is in Christ, then I don't see the difference when each Person of the Trinity is co-equal, coexistent, etc. You just cannot get away from His fullness regardless of the Person. I know that I am saved and filled with the Holy Spirit not because of any works, but because I believe in Jesus Christ and have been redeemed by His blood. Works are important, but being a bondservant comes (or should) as a result of my becoming a new creature in Christ. Works should naturally flow from an abiding relationship with Christ.

I am convinced that when the Lord said, "it is finished" on the cross, that He meant that He had paid in FULL the price of sin. HALLELUJAH! What a mighty God we serve!

Thanks again. Love you all in the name of Jesus!
sonya