

## Baptism

TEXT: “Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” (1 Cor. 1:12-13)

THESIS: A thorough examination showing that baptism is essential for salvation.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. If you were to ask the average person on the street what it means to be baptized into Christ, you may see a blank look on their face.
2. Baptism is one of the most controversial biblical subjects.
  - a. It is an issue that is facing the Lord’s Church today with many books on the subject, many ideas and many conclusions.
  - b. And because of all the confusion and disagreements, we must use the Bible to show the clear teaching regarding baptism.
3. The Bible says that Jesus taught us that the world should be one under his church by which he is the head (Eph. 1:22).
  - a. Yet, in regards to baptism:
    - i. Catholics, Lutherans and Methodist practice sprinkling at birth as their form of baptism.
    - ii. Baptist, Assembly of God and Presbyterians practice baptism after one has been saved.
    - iii. The Church of Christ claims that baptism washes away sins.
    - iv. Various individuals such as Joel Osteen, Max Lucado, Billy Graham, Rubel Shelley and Oral Roberts deny that baptism has any benefit.
    - v. Many do not understand what the big deal is about the water, while others claim it is essential.
  - b. Which are we to believe?
    - i. We must know that one side must be right and the others must be labeled wrong and as the false teachers of baptism.
    - ii. But, which one?
4. From the very beginning when God placed Adam and Eve into the Garden, mankind has had trouble believing what God said.
  - a. The Bible is filled with people who would not listen.
  - b. And still today, it is very unfortunate when an indication of Satan’s power is still seen working as one reads God’s Word and then in the same breath, deny that word.
5. Should man or God decide if baptism is necessary?
  - a. And if God, should we just take God at his word?
  - b. It is interesting that many will obey the laws of man, but reject the laws of God.
6. The Bible teaches that if we are baptized we will be saved.
  - a. So, is God the author of confusion about this subject (Acts 10:34)? No.

- b. So then, why are so many people not understanding baptism?
  - c. The apostle Paul said, “Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.” (Eph. 5:17)
7. We must look to God’s Word to clear up any confusion to baptism by asking:
- a. What is baptism?
  - b. What does baptism do?
  - c. Who should be baptized?
  - d. Why should one be baptized?

#### DISCUSSION:

- I. What is baptism?
- A. Different people from different religions have given their views on what baptism is.
- 1. First consider this: Is one baptized because they are already saved? No.
  - 2. Is one to be baptized when sprinkled as infants as the tradition or for remission of sins? No
    - a. What sin has an infant made? He is not held accountable to the original sin of Adam.
    - b. That is not Biblical teaching, but Calvinism which states that one is born totally depraved and it is this teaching that has crept its way into the NIV and New Living Translation in their attempts to change the meaning of Psalm 51:5 and strengthen their position.
    - c. In addition, Calvinism also rejects Mk. 16:16 (which is usually footnoted in these two translations) which states that one has to believe before they can be baptized.
    - d. Well, what does a baby believe if they are unable to receive God’s words (Acts 2:41) or confess (Matt. 10:32-33)?
- B. Some say that baptism is sprinkling a little water over you.
- 1. Well if this is the case then what did Paul mean when he proclaimed, “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.” (Rom. 6:4)
- C. Others claim that baptism is simply the pouring of water over one’s head or shoulder.
- 1. But, was this what Philip had taught the eunuch?
  - 2. Luke writes that the eunuch, “. . . commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.” (Acts 8:38-39)
    - a. Both went down into the water, both come up out of the water, but why go into the water if only pouring was necessary?
- D. To find the answer of what method is right: sprinkling, pouring, or whatever, we

must find out what the word baptism means.

1. Baptism is from the Greek word *Baptizo* which is an action verb meaning: to immerse, to dip, to plunge, to make fully wet, to cleanse by submerging.
  2. Thus since one is to be dipped or immersed, baptism must require much water.
  3. We see this confirmed when noticing that when John was baptizing, he was at an area where there was much water (Jn 3:23), who baptized Christ in much water (Matt. 3:16) because this was where John was found.
- E. Now, if God's Words are all important, why did he state much water?
1. It is because, if one goes down into the water, being buried, being put under, then that person must also be raised up.
  2. As mentioned earlier, we are to be buried by baptism meaning down into the water (Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 8:38-39)
- F. Now, if one is sprinkled or poured, then they have not been baptized with the baptism that God commands of mankind.
- G. Baptism is taking an individual and putting him completely under the water and then raising him back up.
1. Therefore, nothing else that man does can be called baptism!
  2. Otherwise, it is the baptism of men and not the baptism of God!

## II. WHAT DOES BAPTISM DO?

- A. If one is to say that baptism is only a demonstration and that it does nothing for salvation, then why do people criticize others when they claim that it is done for the remission of sins?
1. Should the later be seen as unimportant than making baptism look as though it means nothing and does nothing? No
- B. Many claim that baptism is done because you have already received (because of) remission of sins.
1. However, when looking at Rom. 6:1-5, how can one walk in newness of life if they have not been baptized and most importantly what is the newness of life?
  2. Paul proceeds to state in Rom. 6:1-2 that we cannot let sin abound meaning that we live in sin before baptism. After baptism Paul states in Rom. 6:6-7 that the old man of sin is crucified with him at baptism and our old lives that are crucified or dead in baptism, stays there in baptism and we become freed from sin walking in newness of life (Rom. 6:4).
  3. Just as in a physical death where a person no longer lives the life he formerly lived, so too is the spiritual death of dying to sin in that the sinful life no longer clings to the new life.
- C. Those who have been baptized in a burial, have been crucified with Christ.
1. Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." (Gal.

- 2:20)
2. The John account of the Bible tells us that Jesus hung until he was dead on the cross at which point blood and water came forth from his heart (Jn. 19:34).
    - a. It is conclusive that while this came from his heart, it is also these two things that are necessary elements of salvation.
- D. The baptism of water puts away the old.
1. “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor. 5:17)
  2. And one is new when they have put on Christ.
    - a. “For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.” (Gal. 3:26-27)
    - b. To put on Christ is to wrap yourself in His cleansing blood from sin and to put on His righteousness which cannot be done before baptism.
- E. Now some may say, well, I am not sure that baptism washes away sin.
1. Jeremiah said, “O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” (Jer. 10:23)
  2. Solomon stated, “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Prov. 16:25)
  3. Now while these verses are not about baptism, many say that I believe that I am O. K., but would you rather believe or know for sure about baptism and where you stand in the scheme of things?
- F. We must take God at his Word and not replace the words of men for the Word of God.
1. We need to know that Jesus said that his blood was shed for the remission of sins (Matt. 26:28).
  2. And that blood was not shed so that people automatically have remission of sins after believing, but that they have the remission of sins when they come in contact with his blood being, “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;” (Col. 2:12-13).
- G. The beloved John said, “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.” (1 Jn. 1:5-7)
1. “Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and

washed us from our sins in his own blood,” (Rev. 1:5) commands us to “. . . arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.” (Acts 22:16)

2. The Lord told Saul as he tells us that when one is baptized, his sins are washed away and that any other way for man to wash away sins besides baptism, is invalid.

### III. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- A. Before one can ask who should be baptized, man has to be taught that they are a sinner (Rom. 3:23).
  1. Man has to be taught the Bible
  2. Then, for those who desire to be baptized are those who desire to be added to his church which is the Kingdom. (Gal. 3:26-27; Jn. 3:3-5)
- B. Those who should be baptized are those who desire to be new creatures (2 Cor. 5:17).
- C. Those who desire to be baptized are those who want to receive remission of their sins and wash them away (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16).
- D. Sadly, there are many who have been baptized and their baptism is not valid because they did not do it for remission of sins, or to be a new creature in Christ.
  1. Their baptism is not valid if done out of peer pressure and not conviction.
    - a. Far too often, family and friends have caused a commitment when others were not ready.
    - b. The end result is that they rebel against the church or leave the church altogether.
  2. A baptism is not valid if they are too young to truly realize what they were doing.
    - a. I have a very difficult time baptizing a small child only for them to return to the toy they were playing with before their baptism.
    - b. Where is the commitment to Christ in that child?
  3. A baptism is invalid if one is baptized to join a local church.
  4. A baptism is invalid if one is being baptized thinking that you were already saved before baptism.
- E. One thing the Bible clearly teaches us over and over again is that you cannot be taught wrong and baptized right!
  1. For when one part is wrong, it makes the teachings and what is being followed as wrong also.
  2. A good example of this is found in Acts 19:4-5 which states, “Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:4-5)
    - a. Tell me, why were they baptized a second time if the way one is baptized is not important?

- b. Acts 19:4-5 shows that there were some who were baptized for the wrong reason that were required to be baptized again. Why?
      - (1) Because if they were not baptized right, they would be lost because they were outside the kingdom and the blood of Christ will not remove sin from those on the outside of him.
- F. And when thinking about those who are not baptized, God says, they are lost.
  - 1. They are without the spiritual blessings found in Christ (Eph. 1:3).
  - 2. They are without redemption (Rom. 3:24).
    - a. For, one cannot have salvation without redemption of their sins.
  - 3. They have no hope of heaven.
- G. But, one can be baptized once they have heard the Word of God and are able to believe, knowing that they need to repent of sins and confess that Jesus is the Son of God.
  - 1. Then and only then is one ready for baptism.
  - 2. And, for those who are not baptized, you are not ready to face the judgment.

#### IV. WHY SHOULD ONE BE BAPTIZED?

- A. One needs to be baptized because of the need to obey Jesus.
- B. Peter, “. . . commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.” (Acts 10:48)
- C. One needs to be baptized because of the need to obey the Gospel of Christ (Rom. 6:1-4).
- D. One needs to be baptized because of the need to be born again (Jn. 3:3-5).
- E. One needs to be baptized because of the need to wash sins away (Acts 22:16)
- F. One needs to be baptized because of the need for salvation meaning saving (Mk. 16:16) and it is salvation that comes through baptism.
  - 1. “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins . . .” (Acts 2:38)
  - 2. They were commanded to be baptized and 3000 obeyed that call on the day of Pentecost.
    - a. Now, some say that it was impossible to baptize 3000 in a single day.
      - (1) But, does mankind dare call God a liar (Tit. 1:2)?
    - b. In Acts 4, 5000 were baptized.
    - c. In Acts 8, the people of Samaria, both men and women were baptized.
    - d. In Acts 8, the eunuch even asked to be baptized after having Christ preached to him.
- G. What part of, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved . . .” (Mk. 16:16) do we not understand?
  - 1. What does remission of sins mean in Acts 2:38?
  - 2. For one to be baptized thinking they are saved before being baptized is not

how God had defined baptism.

3. It is true that Matt. 26:28 states, "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."
  4. But, it is also true, that we are only given the remissions of sins, when we obey God which is more than just belief alone, more than just faith alone, but is seen in many verses showing that more is required. Baptism!
- H. Baptism saves, otherwise God is a liar.
1. For out of God's own mouth, through the Holy Spirit and through Peter, he said, "The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:" (1 Pet. 3:21)
  2. Baptism is not taking a bath.
  3. Baptism is done by obedience because he commands us to and anyone who surrenders himself to Christ in confession, will want to be baptized for the remission of sin.
- I. And because baptism does save, man cannot be saved by any other way.
1. This is because baptism is a burial where God cuts away the sin from the heart.
  2. Baptism is a new beginning . . . a new birth.
    - a. For Jesus said, ". . . I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 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." (Jn. 3:3-5)

#### CONCLUSION:

1. Is there something magical about the water that it is able to remove sins? No.
  - a. Yet, it is by God's Word, that makes baptism essential for salvation and claims that it removes sin.
  - b. His Word is the final and only authority for our lives.
  - c. God commands mankind to not turn to the left or turn to the right of his commands, but to obey them and he only needs to say it once to make it law.
2. For these reasons, not every baptism in the world is valid because many are not performed after God's will, but after the will's of men.
  - a. Baptism has to be for the right reason and it has to be done the right way otherwise your baptism is invalid with God.
  - b. And, if one has belief and repents of their wrong, even if they confess Christ, but are not baptized for the remission of your sins, you are still lost.
3. So, have you obeyed fully the commandments of God.
  - a. Are you in Christ?
  - b. Do not leave today if you are in a lost condition.
  - c. Examine yourself and come to Christ today.

4. God said there is, “One Lord, one faith, one baptism,” (Eph. 4:5).
  - a. And, for any who claim that grace is a gift of God and not works while at the same time claiming only to believe, know that baptism is as much of a work as belief is a work (Jn. 6:28-29).
  - b. This is how James said, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.” (Jam. 2:24)
5. We know not when the Lord will return. But, we do know by the Word of God how to be ready when he does return.
  - a. If you do not know that baptism is not an entrance into a church, then now is the time to know.
  - b. Baptism, is a work by which the Lord adds your soul into Himself and into His Ekklesia meaning “the called out ones” or the assembly of His universal church.
6. But, one cannot be saved without baptism (1 Pet. 3:21).
  - a. One cannot be in Christ without baptism.
  - b. One cannot be a child of God and heir of God without being baptized (Rom. 8:17).