

THE UNIQUENESS OF BAPTISM

Int.

1. Aim: To teach some of unusual things about the subject of baptism.
2. Mark 16:16
 - a. Mentioned quite often in the New Testament
 - b. Baptism=22 verses,Baptize=7 verses,Baptized=51 verses,61 times Baptizing=4 verses
3. The subject of baptism is one of the most controversial Bible subjects
4. Yet the Bible is clear with reference to this matter.
5. We will study Baptism from the idea of it's unique nature
 - a. The word unique means only one of a kind
 - b. Baptism is unique - things said about it that are not true of other commands of God.
6. Notice the uniqueness of baptism

Discussion

I. BAPTISM IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT IS DONE RIGHT ONLY ONCE

- A. Not true of faith, repentance, confession, L.S., prayer, singing, giving
- B. But it is true of baptism - Eph. 4:4-6
- C. The men at Ephesus were baptized again, but that was because it was not done right the first time - Acts 19
- D. You can only be baptized correctly one time
 1. Sprinkling - pouring - is not valid baptism - Col. 2:12 "**Buried with him in baptism...**
 2. Baby baptism - not valid - infants are not in sin - only believers - Mk.16:16
 3. Saved before baptism - is what most teach - not valid baptism - Acts 2:38

4. Not Holy Spirit Baptism

- a. Only two examples in N.T. - Apostles in Acts 2 Cornelius in Acts 10
- b. Following these two times Holy Spirit baptism ceased to be administered
- c. The one baptism of Eph. 4:5 is water baptism, that is given to believers, who have repented and confessed their faith in Christ

E. The thing that makes baptism unique is that it can be done right only 1 time.

II. BAPTISM IS UNIQUE IN THAT THERE ARE NO DEGREES OF BAPTISM

A. Not true of faith, there are degrees of faith

1. "Great faith" - Matt. 8:10 - Centurion
2. "O thou of little faith" - Matt. 14:31
3. "I ncrease our faith" - Lk. 17:5
4. "Him that is weak in the faith" - Rom. 14:1
5. Abraham was "strong in faith" Rom. 4:20

B. Degrees of repentance

1. II Cor. 7:9-10
2. Worldly sorrow leads to a type of repentance that is not genuine
3. Godly sorrow involves a changed heart, that brings a changed life !

C. No degrees of baptism

1. Like marriage, either married or not
2. Either been baptized or not - no partial baptism -
3. Baptism changes our relationship to God - Gal. 3:27 **"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."**

4. A person who wants to be baptized does not have to receive the vote of the congregation in order to be baptized. One church has in their manual that if five members object to a person then he cannot be a member of that church and will be refused to be baptized.

III. UNIQUE IN THAT PEOPLE OBJECT TO IT

- A. Many refuse to:
1. Believe - but all admit that we must have faith in order to be saved
 2. Repent, but who argues that it is not necessary?
 3. Confess, but admit it is necessary for salvation
- B. But many evidently who are trying to go to heaven object to baptism
- C. They even ridicule those who teach one must be baptized. Called by names like water dogs, or that we believe in water salvation.

IV. UNIQUE IN THAT NEARLY ALL DENOMINATIONAL PREACHERS DECLARE IT AS BEING NON-ESSENTIAL

- A. But they all practice baptism -
- B. They deny it is essential, but practice it.
1. "Baptism is not necessary for salvation" - Odle p. 18
 2. "Baptism is not necessary to salvation." Weaver, p. 8
 3. "Every Christian should be baptized, not in order to save him but because he is saved." Odle p. 19
- C. Can't be a member of most churches without being baptized

- D. Preachers preach against it, and yet practice it !!
- E. The Bible teaches that
 - 1. Baptism is necessary - Acts 2:38
 - 2. We are saved after baptism - Acts 2:42

V. BAPTISM IS UNIQUE IN THAT IT IS MENTIONED IN EVERY CASE OF CONVERSION

- A. All parts are important to salvation including
- B. But faith, repentance and confession are not mentioned in every case.
- C. But baptism is mentioned in every case of conversion in the N.T.

VI. BAPTISM IS UNIQUE IN THAT YOU ARE PASSIVE WHEN BAPTIZED

- A. Baptism is something that is done to the penitent believer. He is passive.
- B. Those who claim we are saved by faith only and nothing we can do that has anything to do with our salvation are mistaken in at least three ways.
 - 1. First, faith is something one does.
 - 2. Second, even those who teach salvation by faith only usually admit that repentance is necessary. One cannot be saved by faith only, if one also has to repent.
 - 3. Third, baptism is not a work you do, but an act of submission in which something is done to you and for you.
- C. All the other steps in becoming a Christian are active, but baptism is passive.
This makes baptism unique.

CONCLUSION

1. Bible is clear on the subject of baptism
 - a. It is water baptism
 - b. Baptism is a burial in water - immersion
 - c. It must be preceded by Faith, Repentance and Confession
 - d. Remission of sins comes after baptism - Acts 2:38 Mk. 16:16

2. Baptism is unique in...
 - a. Done right only once
 - b. That there are no degrees of baptism
 - c. People object to it
 - d. Nearly all declare it as being non-essential
 - e. Mentioned in every case of conversion
 - f. You are passive when baptized.

3. Those scripturally baptized are a unique people. - Unique in that they have humbly submitted to God's will while others insist on having their own way.

Sources

Bobby Duncan's sermons - p. 267

The Uniqueness of Baptism by T. Pierce Brown

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