

## PARADOXES OF BAPTISM

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some of the truths about baptism that seem to be a contradiction.
2. Mt. 23:12 "And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted."
  - a. This is an example of a paradox - a statement that seems to be contradictory but is true.
  - b. The way up is down -- up with God and down with self
3. There are several facts about "baptism" which seem to contradict each other. But when examined closely they harmonize. Some examples:

### Discussion

#### I. BAPTISM IS A BIRTH BUT A DEATH

- A. Birth Jn. 3:1-6 "ye must be born again"
  1. Jesus described baptism as the "new birth"
  2. Nicodemus:
    - a. A Jew - Member of Sanhedrin - Jewish Supreme Court
    - b. Recognized that Jesus was from God because he could do miracles
  3. Jesus told him:
    - a. Ye must be born again
    - b. Unless you are born again you cannot see the kingdom of God
  4. Nicodemus thought this new birth was physical - enter into his mother's womb again

## 5. Jesus explained:

- a. Two elements in this new birth - water and spirit
- b. Spirit = one is begotten of the spirit by believing the word which the Spirit gave
  - (1) The Spirit revealed the word - John 16:13 "guide into all truth"
  - (2) John 17:17 "Thy word is truth"
  - (3) The word of God is the truth - The Holy Spirit operates through the word.
  - (4) Rom. 10:17 - The word creates faith
  - (5) To be born of the Spirit means to be taught by the word of God !
- c. Water - this is involved in baptism
  - (1) Gal. 3:26-27 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
  - (2) In Acts 8:36 the Eunuch said "See here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized."
  - (3) The only relation that water has to the kingdom is baptism.
  - (4) It is essential, necessary to enter the kingdom.

6. So baptism is a part of the new birth

7. Baptism is a birth but it is also a....

## B. Death

1. Rom. 6:1-17 - the term death occurs 15 times in this passage and it is talking about baptism
2. This passage says:
  - a. We are crucified
  - b. We are buried
  - c. We are resurrected
3. What happens in baptism?
  - a. Old man of sin dies
    - (1) V. 6 "...the body of sins might be destroyed..."
    - (2) Gal. 2:20 "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."
    - (3) 1 Pet. 2:24 "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."
  - b. Our old self has died and Christ has taken his place
  - c. The time of death for the sinner is at baptism
4. Then the resurrection from baptism signifies a new life - we are born again
5. Baptism is a new birth because the old man has died.
6. Rom. 6:8 "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:"
7. Baptism is a birth, but it is also a death !

## **II. BAPTISM IS A BURIAL BUT A RESURRECTION**

### A. Burial

1. Rom. 6:3-4 "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? 4. 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."
2. Col. 2:12 "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."
3. Baptism means immersion - submerge
4. Jesus was baptized "in the Jordan" Mk. 1:9
  - a. But he was not sprinkled, or poured with water in the Jordan
  - b. He was immersed "in the Jordan" - or buried
5. Israel crossing the Red Sea
  - a. Ex. 14:21-22 "And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. 22. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left."
  - b. The sea was to their right and left and they were "in the cloud."
  - c. 1 Cor. 10:1-2 "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; 2. And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;" --- Paul describes this event and says they were baptized
6. Baptism is a burial

## B. But it is also a RESURRECTION

1. Col. 2:12 **"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."**
2. In Romans 6 there is a contrast of the before and after
3. Before: [Bury this part]
  - a. Body of sin
  - b. Bondage to sin
  - c. Reign of sin
  - d. Presenting one's members to sin
  - e. Using one's members as servants of unrighteousness
  - f. Serving sin, iniquity and uncleanness
  - g. This results in death
4. After [Resurrected as this person]
  - a. Being dead to sin
  - b. Newness of life
  - c. Christ likeness
  - d. Justification from sin
  - e. Alive unto God
  - f. Using one's members as servants of righteousness
  - g. Being obedient and thus free from past sins
  - h. Results in eternal life
5. Baptism makes this contrast in life -- buried, but resurrected.

### **III. BAPTISM IS A CALLING BUT AN ANSWERING**

#### A. Calling

1. Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
2. God does not call us in visions dreams, or some dark corner
3. Those days are over -- Heb. 1:1-2 "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;" - called by the Gospel
4. Today he calls all of us out of darkness by the Gospel
  - a. Rom. 9:24 "Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?"
  - b. 1 Pet 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:"
  - c. Gal. 1:15 "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,"
  - d. 2 Thes. 2:14 "Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."
5. Man's obedience to the gospel is also termed "a calling " in acts 2:21-47 v. 21 "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved." v. 47 "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

B. Baptism is also called an ANSWERING

1. 1 Pet. 3:20-21 "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21. 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:"
2. The Flood Illustration
  - a. The waters of the flood bore up the ark and delivered its occupants from the destruction of the world.
  - b. Baptism is the final condition in a plan through obedience to which one is enabled to escape the condemnation of the lost.
  - c. The waters of the flood separated those who were saved from those who drowned in them. Baptism designates the line of demarcation between the saved and the lost
3. Baptism is an answering
  - a. Baptism answers the good conscience by standing as evidence of humble submission and obedience to the will of God.
  - b. When we obey God then this leads to a good conscience or feeling

## **IV. BAPTISM IS A PUTTING OFF BUT ALSO A PUTTING ON**

### A. Putting Off

1. Col. 2:9-13 v. 11-13 "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: 12. 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. 13. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;"
2. We must put off the old man of flesh
3. He undergoes a spiritual circumcision by putting off this old sinful man

### B. Putting on

1. Gal. 3:26-27 "For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 27. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
2. One becomes a son of God by faith - this refers to the system of faith or the gospel
3. When does the gospel make one a son of God? It is when we obey the gospel in baptism.
4. Man obeys the gospel when he is "baptized into Christ."
5. When man puts off the tattered rags of his sinful life, he replaces them by putting on Christ with the spotless garment of a new creature.
6. 2 Cor. 5:17 "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

**CONCLUSION**

1. Baptism is an essential action for everyone to have forgiveness
  - a. 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."
  - b. Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."
2. There is only one baptism - Eph. 4:4-6
3. Baptism is a paradox:
  - a. It is a birth -- but a death
  - b. It is a burial -- but a resurrection
  - c. It is a calling -- but an answering
  - d. It is a putting off -- but a putting on
4. The question: "And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." ? Acts 22:16 NKJV